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LD181415 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq Conflict

The Iraqi attack on Iran's nuclear plant at Bushehr may have "the same transboundary radioactive release and radiological consequences as the Chernobyl nuclear accident, due to the nuclear material present at the Bushehr power plant," the president of Iran's Atomic Energy Association warned the IAEA in a note cited by IRNA. Terming the attack a "serious threat to the environment and peaceful development of nuclear energy," he urged the IAEA to rush a team of experts to the site to control the radiological consequences of the damage inflicted by Iraqi warplanes. The Iranian official also called on the IAEA to condemn the Iraqi action, which is a "clear violation" of international agreements banning attacks on nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful purposes.

Meanwhile, Iraqi aircraft inflicted "more damage" on the nuclear plant in a second raid 17 November, IRNA noted. An Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio confirmed that Iraqi planes carried out another attack on Bushehr, but as in its earlier communique, the Iraqi command referred to the target as a "petrochemical industrial complex." Large numbers of aircraft launched a "new violent raid" aimed at destroying "selected targets" in the complex, the communique said, adding that the Iraqi planes destroyed a radar station and a Hawk missile battery en route to Bushehr.

The first Iraqi raid on the nuclear power plant killed 10 civilians and wounded 7 others, according to IRNA. A West German engineer working for the FRG Technical Supervisory Association (TUEV) at Bushehr was among the dead. A TUEV spokesman cited by DPA disclosed that all other TUEV employees left the site immediately after the attack and began to return home. He said that TUEV staff started working in Bushehr this year after Iraq gave the IAEA an "assurance" that it would not attack power stations engaged in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, particularly the construction site of the Bushehr nuclear plant. The FRG foreign minister is likely to raise the matter during his forthcoming visit to Baghdad, DPA noted.

In other military action, statements broadcast by Voice of the Masses announced that Iraqi planes hit a large maritime target near the Iranian coast and a Hawk battery on Khark Island. A military spokesman cited by INA denied Iran's claim to have shot down an Iraqi plane over the Gulf, asserting that the Iranians resort to such "lies" whenever they receive a "devastating blow."

On land, the Iraqi II Army Corps repulsed an attack by three Iranian infantry regiments, backed by tanks, according to a communique carried by Voice of the Masses. The "frivolous attempt to gain a foothold" occurred during the night of 16 November. Iraqi forces "annihilated" a large number of the "scoundrels," who were caught in Iraqi gunfire "like prey surrounded by skillful hunters."

For Iran's part, IRNA reported that IRGC commandos and Iraqi Kurdish Peshmergas launched a joint attack against Iraqi forces in the Darband-i Khan Dam area, south of Al-Sulaymaniyah, late on 16 November. The attackers reportedly inflicted "over 1,000" casualties, damaged hydroelectric power installations at the dam, and destroyed a command headquarters of the Iraqi I Army Corps. Another IRNA report cited an Iranian military spokesman's warning that Iranian artillery would pound Iraqi cities in retaliation for Iraq's recent air raids on Iran. Renewed Iranian shelling of Iraqi towns killed or wounded eight citizens, according to an Iraqi communique carried by Voice of the Masses.

Inter-Arab Affairs

The Qatari Cabinet decided to resume diplomatic relations with Egypt as of 18 November, WAKH reported.

Lebanon

Gunmen killed a Syrian soldier and seriously wounded another in West Beirut 17 November, according to Syrian military officials cited by AFP. An anonymous caller informed a Western press agency that the attack was carried out by the "Liberation Battalion," which "will continue its struggle until Syrian troops withdraw from Lebanon," AFP added.

In the Christian sector, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon broadcast a Lebanese Forces (LF) statement announcing the arrest by LF personnel of two men caught driving a booby-trapped car into East Beirut. The men reportedly confessed that they were operating under the directives of an Amal Movement official. Bomb disposal experts defused four other explosive charges found in East Beirut 16 and 17 November, according to reports by Radio Free Lebanon and Voice of Lebanon radio.

In the wake of recent clashes between Palestinians and Nasirite Popular Organization (NPO) militia in Sidon, NPO leader Mustafa Sa'd told the Voice of Lebanon that "certain suspect elements within Palestinian and Lebanese groups are trying to stir up trouble," and he stressed that the NPO cannot allow a return to the pre-1982 situation.

Israel

Jihad Leader's Deportation—Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Awda, leader of the Islamic Jihad movement in Gaza, was ordered deported for his "extremist and inciteful" activities, according to "military sources" cited by *The Jerusalem Post*.

Peres on U.S. Policy—Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told IDF radio that he believes the United States is willing to sign two memoranda of understanding with Israel "within the framework of a grand opening" to Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. One memorandum would give a U.S. commitment that an international conference would not have powers of coercion, Peres said, and the other would involve a U.S. guarantee of continued military and economic aid to Israel. Such memoranda would be similar in status to the U.S.-Israeli memorandum on the PLO signed 15 years ago, he indicated.

Sudan

Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi warned that Sudan is capable of reacting "fiercely and harmfully" if Ethiopia continues its aggression, SUNA reported. Regarding the domestic situation, Al-Mahdi termed the series of industrial actions in the country "unjustifiable" and "ill-timed," and he implied that the strikes are also illegal.

Algeria

President Chadli Bendjedid carried out a "technical reshuffling of the government structure" which included the reassignment of the ministers of higher education, national education, professional training and labor, youth and sports, commerce, and social protection, Algiers radio announced. The Ministries of Social Protection and Planning and National Development were replaced by other organs, two deputy-minister posts were abolished, and two ministries underwent name changes, the radio noted.

DRA-USSR

During a stopover in Moscow, Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil was received by his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, who reiterated the USSR's "invariable and strong support" for the Afghan leadership's efforts toward national reconciliation, TASS reported.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Summit Drops Aid to Syria, PLO, Jordan

NC171430 Paris AFP in English 1344 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Nicosia, Nov 17 (AFP)—The Arab summit last week in Amman decided not to renew a 10-year-old agreement providing collective Arab aid to Syria, Jordan and the PLO, which are considered on the front line of the confrontation with Israel, according to the *Middle East Economic Survey* (MEES). The Nicosia-based publication said Monday that individual donor countries instead are to forge bilateral aid agreements with the front-line parties.

"There is no indication as of now if any bilateral commitments have been made, although it is understood that aid, albeit at a much lower level than before, will still be forthcoming from a number of Gulf Arab states," MEES said.

Assistance was also expected to continue to Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories through the Fund for the Support of Steadfastness in the Occupied Territories (FSSOT).

The 1978 Baghdad summit agreed to pay Syria, Jordan, the PLO and the FSSOT a total of 3.5 billion dollars a year over a ten-year period. The money was to be contributed by Saudi Arabia (one billion dollars annually), Kuwait (550 million), Libya (550 million), Iraq (520 million), the United Arab Emirates (400 million), Algeria (250 million) and Qatar (230 million). However, reports have said that only Saudi Arabia has met its full commitment, with Kuwait paying a major share and the other countries fulfilling only a small part, if any, of their obligation.

Correction to Arab Summit Resolutions

The following corrections pertain to the item under the subhead "INA Carries Summit Resolutions," published in the International Affairs section of the 13 November Near East & South Asia *Daily Report*, pages 23-25.

Page 23, column two, paragraph one, lines two and three: ...Fes in September 1982; announcing the Arab... (correcting year)

Same page, same column, paragraph two, last line: ...and fulfilled by all Arab states through all available means... (supplying additional words)

Same page, same column, paragraph three, last line: ...resolution issued on 25 August 1987... (correcting date)

Page 24, first column, paragraph seven, lines one and two: ...Council Resolution No 4,646-DP 87-C3-6/4/1987 which included a... (correcting resolution number)

Same page, column two, paragraph nine, from last line: ...of its continuation; [new graf] Strongly denouncing Iran's continuous interference in the internal affairs of the Arabian Gulf states and other Arab states and the Iranian Government's adoption of the policy of subversion and actions harming the internal security of some Arab states, decide: [new graf] 1. To denounce and ... (supplying additional paragraph)

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Begins Meetings

JN172142 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1818 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Under the chairmanship of brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the meetings of the PLO Executive Committee began in Baghdad today. During its sessions, the Executive Committee will discuss the resolutions of the extraordinary Arab summit conference, which was held in Amman last week. Of particular interest will be the issue of Palestinian-Jordanian relations in light of the agreement reached between brother leader Abu 'Ammar and King Husayn of Jordan to resume the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue on political efforts concerning the Palestine question and the Arab-Zionist conflict.

The PLO Executive Committee will also review Arab efforts to restore Arab solidarity and to consolidate the Arab nation's unity to confront the dangers posed to it by the Iranian aggression and the Zionist challenges. The Executive Committee will also discuss the situation in the occupied homeland, as well as ways to bolster our Palestinian people's steadfastness in light of the continuous popular upheaval against the arbitrary Zionist practices. It will also discuss the situation of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon and the steps that have been implemented with regard to the lifting of the siege imposed on these camps.

Milhim on Meetings

JN171303 Doha QNA in Arabic 0910 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Doha, 17 Nov (QNA)—PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim has said that Arab moves will be initiated during the next few days prior to the superpower summit with the aim of having the Middle East conflict put on this summit's agenda. In a statement to the Qatari newspaper *Al-'Arab* published today, he said that a number of Jordanian officials will pay official visits to both Moscow and Washington in the near future to explain the Arab point of view toward an international peace conference, PLO participation in the conference, and the issues discussed at the extraordinary Amman summit.

Commenting on the PLO Executive Committee meetings scheduled to be held in Baghdad later today, Milhim said that the future relationship with Jordan, the situation in the occupied territories and in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, and the results of the recent Arab summit will be discussed during these meetings.

Turning to Jordanian-PLO relations, Milhim pointed out that various follow-up committees have been formed to study aspects of bilateral coordination and cooperation in the interest of the Palestinian question and peace efforts in the region.

'Arafat Says Summit Resolutions 'Positive'

JN172058 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, met with PNC members, representatives of popular organizations, and cadres of the Palestinian revolution in Iraq at the PLO office in Baghdad last night. Abu 'Ammar reviewed with the sons of our people the latest developments in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas. He described the resolutions issued by the Amman summit conference as a positive factor for restoring Arab solidarity to confront the dangers facing our Palestinian people inside their occupied homeland. He said that these people are a true model of steadfastness and heroism in the face of the Zionist occupation.

'Arafat on Relations With Syria, Jordan

JN180922 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 Nov (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has stressed that Syrian-Palestinian relations will soon witness positive developments. He added that the extraordinary Arab summit created a positive atmosphere for turning over a new leaf in PLO-Syrian relations. He expressed the hope that these contacts will continue and develop more positively.

In a statement to the Abu Dhabi paper *Al-Ittihad* published today, 'Arafat said he agreed with His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan to resume contacts between them through delegations from both sides. He pointed out that the current PLO Executive Committee meetings will define who will lead the Palestinian side in meetings with the Jordanians.

Commenting on the date for reopening PLO offices in Cairo, 'Arafat said that this is up to Egyptian Fresident Husni Mubarak according to the agreement they reached during their latest meeting in Addis Ababa.

'Arafat reported that his latest visit to Moscow had unveiled the U.S.-Israeli attempts that sought to give the impression that the Soviets had changed their position toward the PLO, toward PLO participation in an international peace conference since it is the major party to the conflict, and toward their position on the Gulf war and on support for Resolution 598.

'Arafat Shifts Security Officials in Lebanon

NC180849 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 16 Nov 87 p 6

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has made a number of important changes in his security force in Lebanon. The changes involve most leaders of that entity. Taysir [not further identified] has been appointed chief of the pro-'Arafat Fatah Movement's security and information unit in Lebanon. He temporarily replaces Abu Mansur Mahmud Qirtam pending the arrival of the original chief, Walid Wardah, who was acting as one of Fatah's officials in Iraq.

AL-SAFIR Interviews Khalil al-Wazir

NC171308 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 16 Nov 87 p 1, 5

[Interview with Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, also identified by his nom de guerre Abu Jihad, by Ghassan Abu Hamad in Berlin; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Abu Hamad] Certain people have described recent developments in Syrian-Palestinian relations as positive. How do you view these developments and what do you expect in the near future?

[Al-Wazir] We would like to emphasize first a principal premise of the Palestinian leadership and revolution. We realize Syria's important role in the pan-Arab arena. We also realize the nature of the Israeli and U.S. dangers to our region and the Arab people. [passage omitted] We do not want to discuss the story of Syrian-Palestinian relations from the beginning. That sad page in the history of our nation began after the Israeli invasion in 1982. Following the painful events in Tripoli, the rift between Syria and the Palestinian revolution widened and political differences increased and were reflected in information campaigns, causing much bitterness.

We Palestinians feel the bitterness of differences among brothers more than others. The Palestinian revolution has tried to end the alienation and disputes. We have done our utmost through the good offices of Arab leaders and friends in the international arena, particularly the Soviet Union and certain socialist countries. We have appealed to all these parties to exert efforts with the brothers in Syria to normalize relations. [passage omitted] Brother President Chedli Bendjedid, Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and others have exerted efforts to solve this dispute and normalize relations. However, the results have not attained what every sincere person hopes.

Certain Palestinian brothers met with President al-Asad recently and conveyed to him a message from the Palestinian leadership. The Syrian leadership's response was

positive, but certain questions arose indicating some lack of confidence. However, we received the Syrian response positively and stated in our answer that our most important goal is to do all we can to restore the confidence that had been shaken in the past. There are important Palestinian, Syrian, Arab, and international factors that dictate a return to a united position of struggle to confront dangers. We explained our views and position.

Our response to the Syrian leadership stressed our interest in a direct dialogue between a Palestinian delegation and the Syrian leadership to discuss explicitly all issues and deal with all differences. We had expected a procedural step before the Arab summit, but the Syrian brothers wanted to postpone such a step until after the summit. Anyway, it concerns us as a Palestinian revolution to emphasize our eagerness to have normal and fraternal relations with the brothers in Syria and to resolve the differences from a pan-Arab perspective and out of a deeper sense of the Zionist dangers that threaten the entire Arab nation. We also want to return as a Palestinian movement and a Lebanese nationalist movement to Syria's side, ending the current disarray in Arab ranks.

[Abu Hamad] Do you not believe that the Palestinian political course is widening the rift with Syria and other Palestinian groups outside the PLO's framework?

[Al-Wazir] There are no preconditions or demands in Syrian-Palestinian relations. What we must be concerned about now is starting a dialogue and discussing all points of disagreement. We would like to assert that the Palestinian revolution is the first victim of the Camp David conspiracy and that the Palestinian position is clear and principled. We are suffering from the wound that U.S. imperialism and the Zionist enemy inflicted in the chest of the Arab nation through the Camp David plot. No one can cast doubts on the patriotism of others regarding the Camp David accords, because we are still suffering from their effects and have declared our principled stand on the Camp David affair. We have declared this at the PNC and on every occasion.

During the latest PNC session an agreement was reached on a decision which caused a furor and led to the closure of PLO offices [in Egypt]. They have not yet been reopened. Despite this, we have always stressed that if we used a certain weapon at one stage, we must pause and ponder what we have achieved by using such a weapon. The question remains whether the single act of boycotting Egypt is worthwhile, or should we lend importance to the nature of changes on all levels and define our future steps toward Egypt accordingly? The most important thing our Israeli enemy and the United States wanted to accomplish through Camp David was to isolate Egypt from the Arab nation.

After 10 years of ruptured relations, we must pause and ponder the issue seriously and responsibly, without demagoguery or propaganda. We should ask if it is time to try another way. We have certain convictions and the brothers in Syria have others on this issue. We are concerned about Egypt's influence, magnitude, and importance to the Arab nation. We must assess things in this light and see where our interests and those of our Arab nation lie, defining the path accordingly. This does not indicate any deviation from pan-Arab issues or from the confrontation with imperialist and Israeli plots.

[Abu Hamad] Did you meet personally with Minister Nabih Birri in Algiers, and how far have efforts gone to end the camps war?

[Al-Wazir] The bleeding wound of the camps in Lebanon is painful to every patriot and conscientious man. [passage omitted] We do not want to discuss who is responsible for the camps war, but how to end this bloodshed. We want to consider how to restore confidence and trust and establish a common ground of love and fraternity, how to restore Lebanese-Palestinian unison, and how to prevent our people from falling into the enemy's trap. The enemies want us to indulge in this tragedy. This is the main question. Thus, we have responded to all initiatives. We have responded to and supported Brother Birri's initiative. Steps to implement this initiative have slowed and we ask why. Is there no way to save ourselves together from this bloodshed?

We extend our hands to our brothers and want to restore relations of unison with our kinfolk in Lebanon. [passage omitted] We were eager to meet with Brother Birri on the anniversary of the Algerian revolution in Algiers on 1 November. Circumstances were favorable for a meeting between Nayif Hawatimah, representing the Palestinian revolution, and Birri. Points of diagreement and developments were discussed. These meetings mark the beginning of what we hope will be expanded discussions in the near future to resume joint efforts to end this painful episode and restore close fraternal relations to their previous level. Other meetings were held in Algiers with the brothers in the Lebanese nationalist movement to create an atmosphere of mutual understanding of our circumstances and discuss ways of future cooperation in our struggle.

[Abu Hamad] There is an obstacle to the return of Palestinian resistance groups to Lebanon that you do not take into consideration: The Lebanese nationalists' fear of a return to the previous state of affairs. This fear is corroborated by the absence of self-criticism of the previous stage by most Palestinian groups.

[Al-Wazir] We must view these facts objectively. We have repeatedly declared our self-criticism of many events before the 1982 war. Erroneous practices did occur and no one denied them. There were negative aspects that no one forgets and there were mistakes that no one ignores. These are facts that we must emphasize.

We maintain that any sound relations between us and our brothers in Lebanon must be free of these negative aspects. We bear this in mind as we consider all aspects of future Palestinian-Lebanese relations.

However, while we do not forget these negative aspects, we must not forget the bright and positive pages of the past, when we stood united and created a new reality in the region by safeguarding our national issues. We did this when we stressed the principle that the rifle is the way to confront the enemy who threatens our nation everywhere and when we created close unison on all levels in Lebanon. The brave confrontation of the Israeli invasion shook the legendary image of the Israeli army. That confrontation became the epitome of Arab heroism in confronting this power, which had been called invincible.

At the same time, however, we stress that we all shoulder the national, pan-Arab, and human responsibility for establishing clear and frank relations through realizing and understanding each other's interests and circumstances. We must take care that the new relations are based on learning the negative and positive lessons of the past. We do not want to indulge in pessimism and say that a Palestinian presence means a return to the stage that prevailed before 1982. We are totally determined to do our utmost to avoid mistakes to establish a sound relationship. There must be amiable dialogue and confidence to establish common understanding and an in-depth discussion of our interests. We can then chart our course on a clear basis and check any measures that violate our agreement.

This could be the beginning and we believe that the joint confrontation of the Israeli occupation and the perils threatening our common existence will undoubtedly heal many of the past wounds and bitter memories. We must stand together, take a bold stand, and chart a new path to create an effective Palestinian-Lebanese-Arab front in the interest of all parties.

[Abu Hamad] During your recent visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyah, you declared your opposition to an international conference. Was it a tactical move?

[Al-Wazir] Actually, I was presenting the situation as follows: While talking about an international conference, which represents one of the political options, we must be aware of certain issues, foremost of which is that our Israeli enemy and the U.S. Administration reject an international conference vested with full powers to make effective decisions. Both the Israeli enemy and the U.S. Administration want an international conference to serve as an umbrella for bilateral negotiations between certain Arab countries and the Israeli enemy for the sake of concluding other, separate bilateral agreements.

We, together with our Arab nation and our friends on the international level led by the Soviet Union, must struggle to gain international support for an effective conference enjoying full powers. This conference should be attended by all parties including the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

If we give all of our attention to the issue of an international conference, how can we answer the following question: Where should we put the military option? Why should we ignore it? We must ask every official in our Arab nation the following question: Have we forgotten the military option amid the issue of an international conference, the voyage to which is far and will even be farther in the next stage? This is the question which we constantly pose to our Arab nation.

We in the Palestinian revolution often hear voices that say we have pursued the course leading to a political solution and political settlement. This is unfair. We are in the heart of the battles and epics that confront the Israeli enemy. Our people in the occupied land are giving examples of this confrontation every day. [passage omitted]

I affirm that armed struggle is our sole option. The revolution has stepped up the armed struggle, which the Israeli enemy admits with figures. The Israeli enemy has admitted that there were 180 operations in the occupied territories in 1982; 351 in 1983; 466 in 1984; 788 in 1985; and 870 in 1986. The enemy has acknowledged that well over 480 operations have been carried out during the first 10 months of this year. To those who accuse the Palestinian revolution of having abandoned the gun, we say this is not true. Armed struggle is the basis for our political move. This does not mean a political settlement, rather, it is meant to serve our revolutionary and military struggle.

BRIEFS

Camp Communications

According to informed sources, a radio receiver directly connected to an international line in London has been installed in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah Palestinian camp [in Lebanon]. The set can pick up signals transmitted by Palestinian radios in various countries which host PLO offices without having to pass through Lebanese communication lines. The cost of the receiver was $45,000. [Text] [Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 16 Nov 87 p 6 NC]

Algeria

'Technical Reshuffle' of Cabinet Announced

LD172339 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and FLN secretary general, has carried out a technical reshuffle of the government. Mr Abdelhak Rafik Bererhi [former minister of higher education] has been appointed minister of youth and sports; Mr Mostefa Benamar [former minister of commerce] has been named minister of education and training; Mr Boubakeur Belcaid [former minister of professional training and labor] has been appointed minister of higher education; Mr Mohamed Nabi [former minister of social protection] has been named minister of labor and social affairs; and Mr Mohamed Cherifi has been appointed minister of commerce.

The work of the Ministry of Social Protection will henceforth be assumed by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. Matters of vocational training linked with the training of graduating young people are the responsibility of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training. The other tasks of vocational training for working adults are the responsibility of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

The Ministry of Planning and National Development has been abolished. Its work will be carried out by a National Planning Council, which will work under the supervision of the prime minister. The post of deputy minister in charge of secondary and technical education has been abolished, as well as the post of deputy minister in charge of fisheries.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fishing will now be known as the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry of Hydraulics, Environment, and Forests will be known as the Ministry of Hydraulics, Forests, and Fishing.

Mrs Z'hor Ounissi, former minister of national education; Mr Ali Oubouzar, former minister of planning and national development; Mr Kamel Bouchama, former minister of youth and sports; Mrs Leila Ettayeb, former deputy minister in charge of secondary and technical education; and Mr (Mohamed Mazouni), former deputy minister in charge of fisheries, have been assigned other duties.

Egypt

Mubarak Reaffirms No Forces Outside Egypt

NC171717 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Excerpt] Shibin Al-Kawm, Al-Minufiyah, 17 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has emphasized, once again, Egypt's policy of not permitting the establishment of foreign bases on its territory. The president also affirmed that no Egyptian forces are stationed outside its territory. He asserted: "Our policy on this matter is clear and open."

President Mubarak made these statements while speaking at a popular political conference held today in a town in Al-Minufiyah Governorate, while on his tour of Egyptian production sites.

With regard to the Middle East crisis, President Mubarak reasserted that the Palestinian issue is the heart of the crisis and described it as the "cause of lost opportunities." President Mubarak said that Egypt has made and will continue to make all possible efforts for the benefit of this cause. He expressed the hope that the coming stage will witness a coordinated effort for the sake of the Palestinian cause.

Referring to the issue of Arab-Egyptian relations since he came to power, President Mubarak remarked that he had not allowed formalities to influence Egyptian decisions, nor to affect Egyptian policy or its support for its Arab brothers. He noted the growing inter-Arab rapprochement in the past few years.

Commenting on the extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman, President Mubarak repeated his praise for the efforts made by Jordan's King Husayn to ensure the summit's success. He also lauded the Arab leaders concern to attain Arab solidarity.

Addressing the popular conference in Al-Minufiyah, President Mubarak said that our Arab nation's strength lies in its solidarity, which gives it the capability to confront the challenges and hazards that threaten Arab security and existence. He voiced confidence that the march of Arab solidarity and concord will forge ahead for the good of supreme Arab interests and fateful Arab causes, without heeding those whose radio stations are devoted to launching attacks on the solidarity of the Arab leaders.

President Mubarak declared that Egypt's relationship with the international community is a distinctive one based on mutual respect. He pointed out that this relationship has a positive effect on obtaining support for Egypt's policy at international forums and in solving its economic problems with international institutions. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Receives Message From 'Arafat

NC171507 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has received a message from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The message was given to Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, during his meeting with PNC member Sa'id Kamal this afternoon.

Following the meeting, Sa'id Kamal stated that they had discussed Arab and Palestinian developments, particularly in light of the extraordinary Arab summit which concluded in Amman last Wednesday.

PNC Speaker Meets 'Abd al-Majid, Al-Baz

NC171353 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih. Dr Usamah al-Baz, first undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, also met with the PNC speaker.

The PNC speaker stated to our correspondent that during these two meetings Arab issues and the results of the Arab summit conference in Amman were discussed. He praised Egypt's role in the Arab world and its support for the Arab nation's causes.

Restoration of Official Relations Continues

Saudi Message Received

NC171346 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received a written message from Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal al-Sa'ud today. The message was delivered by As'ad Abu al-Nasr, the Saudi charge d'affaires in Cairo.

MENA has learned that the message contains the Saudi decision to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt. The message expresses the view that this step bolsters the course of Arab solidarity and supports Arab efforts for the benefit of all fateful Arab causes. The message also notes the importance of promoting the historical and fraternal ties between the two countries and reviews the situation in the Middle East and the Arab region.

Mauritanian Decision Welcomed

NC172217 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Statement made by a "responsible source" at the Foreign Ministry on Mauritania's decision to restore diplomatic relations]

[Text] The Arab Republic of Egypt welcomes the Islamic Republic of Mauritania's decision to restore full diplomatic relations with the Arab Republic of Egypt as of today, 25 Rabi' al-Awwal, 1408, corresponding to 17 November 1987.

The source expressed confidence that the Mauritanian decision will help promote the fraternal relations between the two countries' governments and peoples for the good of Arab solidarity with regard to the challenges which confront the Arab nation. It is God who grants success.

Qatar Restores Ties

NC181340 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Statement by a "responsible" source at the Foreign Ministry—read by announcer]

[Text] The Arab Republic of Egypt welcomes the State of Qatar's decision to restore diplomatic and political relations with Egypt as of today, Wednesday, 18 November 1987. Egypt emphasizes its appreciation of the close ties between the two fraternal countries, its established faith in the unity of Arab security based on mutual support among the Arab countries, and the pride it takes in the State of Qatar's appreciation of Egypt's necessary role in promoting collective Arab action and attaining comprehensive solidarity.

'Terrorist Organization' Members Sent to Trial

NC151555 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 15 Nov 87

[Excerpts] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—Attorney General Counsellor Muhammad 'Abd Al-'Aziz Al-Jundi today referred 33 defendants to the State Supreme Criminal Court for trial. They are charged with the attempted murders of Hasan Abu Basha, former minister of local government; Major General Al-Nabawi Isma'il, former deputy prime minister and interior minister; and Makram Muhammad Ahmad, chairman of the board of Dar al-Hilal Publishing House. The charges also include acts of violence carried out by these individuals in the villages of Al-Kharqaniyah and Santaris, the murder of policeman Hamadah Salamah Hamad, and the attempted murders of a number of policemen in both villages.

The attorney general asked for the death sentence to be given to 15 of these defendants. He recommended verdicts ranging from a life term to 5 years' imprisonment for the others, in accordance with the crimical code.

In his order referring the defendants to the court, the attorney general stated that the first 15 defendants had set up, organized, and run an illegal, secret, para-military, terrorist organization. This group has acted against society, advocating hatred, contempt, and opposition to the principles on which the country's government is founded. The organization was also involved in planning the assassinations of a number of current and former senior state officials, key public figures, and newsmen. It also has incited resistance and the use of force, violence, and terrorism against the authorities. The defendants

had in their possession publications calling for the rejection of the fundamental principles on which the state's socialist government is based. The remaining defendants, the attorney general added, have joined this clandestine terrorist group and gotten involved in its activities, even though they were aware of the group's objectives.

Counsellor Al-Jundi has announced that investigations into these cases involved 170 suspects, of whom only 133 were interrogated, since the remaining 37 are still at large. He noted that the suspects whose innocence has been established have been acquitted by the prosecutor. He stressed that some of these suspects are being investigated by the State Supreme Security Prosecutor's Office for joining an extremist religious organization. He added that the outcome of these investigations will soon be made public. The attorney general noted that all weapons and vehicles used in the above stated crimes have been seized, adding that Al-Nabawi Isma'il, Hasan Abu Basha, Makram Muhammad Ahmad, and others, who have been wounded in these attacks, had identified the defendants charged with the attempted murders.

Article Examines U.S. Presence in Country

NC161225 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 13 Nov 87 p 11

[Badiyat al-Qadiri article: "The U.S. Presence in Egypt, From Advice to Direct Intervention"]

[Text] The Arab citizen should be fully aware of what is going on these days in Egypt. He should keep track of events and the way they are presented by the media and politicians. This is because it can truly be said today that the decisive turning point has been reached in the life of the present regime (Mubarak's regime) and in the life of the political forces that constitute the political map of Egypt. Many aspects of future political life in Egypt will be defined by what is happening today.

A secret organization calling itself Egypt's Revolution is being pursued in Egypt today. It is reported that the leader of the organization is Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir, the son of the leader Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir. The aim of the movement, as the organization itself has declared and as Egyptian ruling circles have said, is to pursue and strike at the U.S.-Zionist presence and interests in Egypt. This organization's activities have been concerned with the (U.S.-Zionist) alliance's interests. The recorded activities of this organization have only been against this alliance and its representatives in the Egyptian arena.

According to preliminary Egyptian security assessments, this organization is comprised of a group of young people with limited experience. Attention has been focused on a group that these authorities say is led by Dr Salah Dassuqi. But these assessments have apparently failed to give the necessary assurances to the basic forces on which the Egyptian regime depends or to those forces that protect it internally and externally. Hence the regime's organs now talk about the discovery of a (military-civilian) organization with a high degree of expertise and efficiency, led by officers from Egyptian intelligence, the Army, and the police. Arrests and dismissals of officers and military men have begun. The pretext is that they have failed to uncover the activities of officers who are members of this organization, have sought to protect them, or have even participated in the activities themselves. This new group is the Egypt's Revolution organization, which is responsible for all, or at least most, resistance operations against the Zionist-U.S. presence, from the assassination of the Mosad officer in the Zionist Embassy in Cairo, to the attempt to assassinate two senior CIA officials in Cairo.

Thus, the Egypt's Revolution organization is not a group of young civilians and its experience is not that limited. The matter is not as simple as the Egyptian authorities first told us. The organization has become a fully integrated body, the purpose of which is to resist the Zionist-U.S. presence. It is spreading within the organs of the Egyptian Army, security, and police among all ranks and at all levels. This is the first fact on which we should focus. President Mubarak, now starting his second term in office, is required to pledge his loyalty to U.S.-Zionist policy, specifically by promoting this policy within the Egyptian Army and the security and police organs, purging them not only of those expressing opposition to the Camp David agreement, but also of those who do not show support for it. This seems to us to be part of the Camp David agreement itself; it also requires constant enthusiasm and active support.

When Al-Sadat embarked on an alliance with the United States and Zionism after the Ramadan war, he discharged many Army officers and carried out a "purge" of Army officers, police, and security men. The operation involved many officers who had damaged documents concerning resistance networks and intelligence within the Zionist entity. All this was done amid slogans and claims that had nothing whatsoever to do with the political situation—slogans such as: The people (all of them) and the (whole) Army are the sons (of the head of the family), and they "approve" of the policy of dealing with America, "the holder of all the cards to a solution." This was the idea which the regime had been trying to promote in Egypt!!

This method of dealing with the internal situation is no longer acceptable. It is now being made clear to everyone, in no uncertain terms, that he who refuses to comply with the policy of dealing with Zionism and the United States must be liquidated from all influential positions! The enemies of the Zionist entity and the enemies of the United States in Egypt must be liquidated; this is exactly what is happening now in Egypt and it must be publicized. The second fact is that the Egyptian authorities are requested to pursue those who do not view the American-Zionist presence within the Egyptian community as

natural. We recall this fact, not only because it affects every Arab citizen in Egypt, but because it is an indication of the features of the coming stage in the Arab world as a whole.

In the past, the Egyptian regime (Al-Sadat's regime) initiated the policy of dealing with the Zionist enemy, and became a pioneer in this field. Today the Egyptian regime publicly sets out on its course, so that the rest of the Arab regimes may follow.

It is of utmost importance to look at the trend which is being blamed in this regard, how the issue of the struggle against the Zionist presence in Egypt is being presented and phrased, and then how the concept of accusation is being expressed on both national and international levels.

Mubarak's regime rushes to participate in the Western imperialist effort, or the so-called (anti-terrorism) campaign. The regime presents Nasirites as (terrorists), substantiating its claims by the fact that they are fighting the Zionist-U.S. presence in Egypt. The Nasirites are not bothered by such an accusation, because it is an honor for any Arab to be involved in fighting this presence. This attitude is not a novelty to them, because Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir's stand on the imperialist Zionist-U.S. presence inside and outside the nation was the example which all free peoples, from Africa to Latin America, wanted to follow. When the conscious vanguards of that trend, represented by the Nasirite Arab Socialist Party and its branches in trade unions, managed to give accurate expression to this trend in the political life of Egypt, thus showing things clearly as they really are, the first and last battle became the battle with the Zionist-U.S. presence in its political, cultural, and military forms.

It is from this battle that all other battles and forces spring and come to light; that slogan was expressed without any equivocation. Adherence to it was very strong and it was raised high and bright without any blemish, whether through political popular action led by the Nasirite party, or through military fedayeen action led by the Egypt's Revolution organization.

Investigations of the fundamentalist trend, in connection with several assassination attempts, have proved that all assassination operations against Egyptian figures were carried out by non-Nasirite hands and that the Nasirites have nothing to do with such things. Their aim is clear and their determination is firm. Thus, today we find two trends doing battle with the regime and its policies in Egypt:

—A fundamentalist trend that sees in strikes against local symbols and personalities the path its struggle should take. It wants to frighten these symbols away from opposing its role and efforts.

—A Nasirite trend that believes that the real and main enemy is the U.S.-Zionist presence and that local enemies are mere shadows of this presence. It also believes that the real struggle in the Egyptian arena must be against this presence, given the nature of the relationship between the true and the secondary enemies.

The Egyptian regime has been pained and embarrassed by the fundamentalists' operations, but these have remained within certain bounds and have not gone beyond them. They have not caused a serious embarrassment for the regime in its dealings with the U.S.-Zionist circles. The operations carried out against that presence threatened the regime and gave it a shaky and impotent image in the eyes of the U.S.-Zionist circles. These operations also succeeded in securing overwhelming support from various sectors of the population and from within the regime itself.

Hence we can understand the meaning of the direct U.S. intervention demanding the heads of the Nasirites. What is still more dangerous—and I believe that this will characterize Husni Mubarak's term in office—is that U.S. interference has gone beyond the bounds of advice, strategic planning, and the drawing up of general policies, to the direct undertaking of the tasks of the internal security organs, the last facade or semblance of sovereignty of subservient governments.

Joint Beninese Committee Meetings Begin

NC172053 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1910 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—The meetings of the first session of the joint Egyptian-Beninese committee commenced at the Foreign Ministry tonight. The Egyptian delegation was led by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Beninese delegation by Benin's foreign minister, Guy Hazoume, who is presently visiting Cairo.

At the opening session, the two ministers stressed that the two countries have the political will to strengthen and entrench bilateral relations in all political, diplomatic, economic, commercial, and technical fields. The two delegations reviewed the ways in which these relations could be developed. Technical committees were formed to draw up the documents expected to emerge from this session. An executive protocol on cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation for the next 3 years is also expected to be signed at the conclusion of the meetings. In addition, a final communique will be issued at the end of the committee's meetings, scheduled to last 3 days. It will deal with the two countries' views on various international and regional issues of interest to both countries.

The Beninese foreign minister arrived in Cairo yesterday, Monday, for a 4-day visit.

Mubarak Receives Hazoume

NC180945 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0835 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Benin's Foreign Minister Guy Hazoume at the Presidency this morning. Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, also attended the meeting.

The Beninese foreign minister arrived in Cairo on Monday for a 4-day visit, leading his country's delegation to Egyptian-Beninese joint committee's meetings, which began yesterday.

Following the meeting, Hazoume stated that he had conveyed to the president a message of friendship from his brother Mathieu Kerekou, Beninese president. He said he is visiting Cairo to take part in the meetings of the Egyptian-Beninese joint committee, adding that he had asked the president to support efforts to bolster bilateral relations and make them flourish.

Economy Minister Meets World Bank Delegation

NC171500 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—Dr Yusri 'Ali Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, met today with a World Bank delegation which is visiting Cairo led by the bank's deputy chairman, Mr Thaliotis [name and title as received].

The Egyptian economy minister briefed the delegation on the measures which the Egyptian Government has adopted to rectify its economy within the framework of social and economic development. He also informed the delegation about the measures pertaining to the establishment of a free currency exchange in order to effect a stage-by-stage standardization of the exchange rates. Dr Mustafa explained the government's policy under the second 5-year plan to encourage private investment, and the measures taken to facilitate procedures related to exports and to increase Egyptian exports to foreign markets.

During the meeting, the delegation reviewed the spheres in which Egypt and the World Bank cooperate. It also discussed the projects that the bank may finance, including those in the industrial production sector.

GCC Loans Sought To Repay U.S. Military Debt

NC172253 Paris AFP in English 1638 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Riyadh, Nov 17 (AFP)—The Egyptian Government is seeking a loan of 1.5 billion dollars from the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to help repay its military debt to the United States, a Saudi magazine has reported here.

The magazine, *Al-Yamamah*, in its edition appearing Wednesday said some of the funds would be earmarked to meet a 700 million dollar repayment installment falling due this month.

It said the loan would also be used by Egypt to finance projects outlined in the country's second five-year plan.

Four of the GCC members, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates have just re-established formal diplomatic relations with Egypt, which they had broken off to protest the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

The action was taken following last week's Arab summit in Amman, which authorized Arab states to resume ties to Cairo individually.

A fifth member of the GCC, Oman, never broke relations, while a sixth, Qatar, has yet to announce a decision on relations with Egypt.

Sudanese Irrigation Minister Concludes Visit

NC171525 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1412 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—Sudanese Irrigation Minister Mahmud Bashir Jamma' departed from Cairo today for Khartoum following a 10-day visit to Egypt during which he met with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Confirms Talks With Polisario

LD171758 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Nov (MAP)—Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has renewed his opposition to the "independence of 40,000 people" in the Sahara and the establishment of another Arab state in this region.

During an audience granted to the delegations of Moroccan lawyers organizations taking part in the work of the Permanent Bureau of the Arab Lawyers Union's, the Libyan president [as received] confirmed that he is working on "persuading Polisario to join Morocco and form a party there."

The Moroccan *Al-Ittihad Al-Ishtiraki*, which published the report in today's issue, attributed to Colonel Qadhdhafi the saying that his country "is the one that set up Polisario in 1972 for the liberation of the Saquia el Hamra and Rio de Oro, and that it was not in agreement over the establishment of its own state." He also pointed out that "the issue of the Sahara is not what is causing disagreement between Algeria and Morocco. The problem is due to regional causes, which have a greater role in their relations than the Sahara issue."

Iranian Deputy Interior Minister Arrives

LD171602 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Nov (JANA)—Brother Mohammad Shariati, deputy minister of the Iranian Interior Ministry, arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Nigerian Minister-Led OPEC Delegation Arrives

LD151045 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0742 GMT 15 Nov 87

[Text] Tripoli, 15 Nov (JANA)—Haji Lukman, the Nigerian minister of petroleum resources and the chairman of the current OPEC; Hernandez Grisanti, the Venezuelan minister of energy and mines; and Dr Subroto, the Indonesian minister of mining and energy, arrived in Tripoli yesterday on a visit to the Jamahiriyah.

Haji Lukman, the present chairman of OPEC and Nigerian minister of mines and energy, made a statement to JANA in which he indicated that this visit falls within the framework of consultations and meetings to discuss issues related to the oil sector and all aspects of problems facing OPEC.

Received by Jallud

LD152315 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Nov 87

[Text] In Tripoli this morning, Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud met with the OPEC delegation led by Haji Lukman, the Nigerian minister of petroleum resources and current chairman of OPEC; Hernandez Grisanti, Venezuelan minister of energy and mines; Dr Subroto, the Indonesian minister of mining and energy; and Dr al-Shalabi, the secretary general of OPEC.

The meeting was attended by the secretary of the General People's Committee of Public Services, the brother chairman of the Administrative Committee of the Petroleum Corporation, and the Venezuelan and Nigerian ambassadors to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Delegation Leaves

LD152332 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1747 GMT 15 Nov 87

[Text] Tripoli, 15 Nov (JANA)—The OPEC delegation led by Haji Rilwanu Lukman, the Nigerian minister of petroleum resources and current OPEC chairman; Hernandez Grisanti, Venezuelan minister of energy and mines; and Dr Subroto, Indonesian minister of mining and energy, left Tripoli this evening.

In a statement to JANA, Haji Rilwanu Lukman, current OPEC chairman, praised the unlimited support of the Jamahiriyah to the organization, pointing out that the visit of the delegation has achieved good results which will contribute to the success of the organization's next conference.

U.S., French Begin Mediterranean Exercises

LD150922 Tripoli JANA in English 0806 GMT 15 Nov 87

[Text] Paris, Al-Harth [November] 15, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—Joint American and French forces yesterday began exercises in the northern Mediterranean.

A spokesman for the French naval forces declared that French naval units and Air Force were to take part in the exercises as well as the American aircraft carrier *Coral Sea* and American Air Force Units.

The exercises are to last for a (?week).

Mauritania

Communique on Renewed Ties With Egypt

AB171520 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Communique issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in Nouakchott on 17 November on the resumption of diplomatic relations with Egypt]

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Mauritania, conscious of the age-old fraternal relations with the Arab Republic of Egypt and of the need to strengthen its multifaceted and mutual cooperation with that country, and being anxious to strengthen the concerted action of and solidarity between the various Arab and African states, has made the decision to resume diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level with the Arab Republic of Egypt as of Tuesday, 17 November 1987.

It must be stressed that our country is the eighth Arab country to have renewed ties with Egypt following the Amman summit, after Oman [as heard], the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Iraq, North Yemen, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait.

Coup Plotters Reportedly To Stand Trial

AB172002 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1830 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Fifty-one people, including Army officers close to the Presidency of the Republic, will be tried tomorrow by a special court. The trial will take place in a military camp situated at the locality of [name indistinct], 15 kilometers from Nouakchott. The trial will be open to the public. Pierre Mbeki-Mba reports:

[Begin recording] The 22 October abortive coup plotters in Nouakchott will be tried. According to the official version, the coup plotters' aim was to seize power, kill the president of the Republic, Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, and arrest all prominent personalities. According to other sources, the abortive coup was serious in that it was fomented by an ethnic group—the blacks—who stood against a certain Moor political and cultural domination.

This affair has also taken serious proportions owing to the importance of the plotters, among whom are Colonel Anne Amadou Babaly, former minister of interior; Captain Sy Bocar, deputy military secretary at the Presidency; Ngayede Ali, commander of the presidential squadron; Lieutenant Biha Abdouramane, permanent officer of the Army headquarters; and Captain Diop Gibril, former director of national security. Most of the arrested soldiers, both blacks and white Moors, were serving at Nouakchott and Nouadhibou garrisons.

The person chosen by the plotters to be president, Col Anne Amadou Babaly, denied during his arrest that he had taken part in this coup attempt. He admitted, however, that he had been consulted. The Mauritanian Government set free some of the accused a few days ago due to lack of evidence. Following the numerous arrests caused by this abortive coup, a clandestine movement called Mauritanian African Liberation Force, FLAM, presented itself as the spokesman of the black community, calling for what they called equal treatment with the white population. It will be recalled that the black population in Mauritania constitutes 20 to 30 percent of the 2 million Mauritanians and that about 40 Mauritanian lawyers will defend the accused. [end recording]

Morocco

King Hassan on Greater Magreb, Sahara Conflict

LD171756 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, gave an interview to Swedish television special correspondent Christiane Forsoni at the royal palace in Fes. The full text of the interview follows:

Question: Your Majesty, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid considers the creation of a Maghreb economic community to be essential for North African development. Do you agree with this and if so, why have negotiations for instituting such a community not yet begun?

Answer: Not only do we agree with the establishment of this community, but we began working on the idea a long time ago, during the time of President Boumediene. Meetings were held regularly and periodically, and our discussions were extremely profound. At that time we asked Libya to participate in this community, but on the eve of the meeting of the trade and industry committee, Al-Qadhdhafi declared that his country would not participate. I do not remember the exact date of this gathering, but it had been decided on while Mr Belaid was minister of industry in Algeria—around 1970 or 1971, if I remember correctly. At that time, we stated it would be preferable to postpone the meeting in the hope of having Libya participate. But in fact, Al-Qadhdhafi in that period turned his back on the Maghreb and instead moved toward Egypt. That was his choice, for he is completely free to choose as he wishes. He believed that his country's move toward Egypt would have greater benefits for Libya. Since then, and because Libya did not participate in the meetings, the conferences of the committees became more and more infrequent. Then the Sahara problem emerged. All this was not what we had hoped for. Our committees worked in earnest for 4 or 5 years. In fact, the situation is a result of the suspension of these discussions, which I hope will be resumed soon.

Question: Do you think it is necessary to establish a Maghreb economic community?

Answer: Of course, especially since the countries of the Maghreb, whose population will reach about 100 million people at the turn of the century, complement each other. This means the Maghreb will certainly be composed of 100 million consumers, but also have a sizable proportion of producers. In addition to this, the Maghreb, with its geographical location, is considered a link and a necessary route for Europe—both Eastern and Western—into sub-Sahran Africa.

Question: You have requested the EEC to admit Morocco. You did this even though you knew both that Morocco is not a European country and that it is not as economically developed as the other EEC member states. Was your request still a serious one?

Answer: First of all, I must say that we are indeed not a European country. However, I do not believe that the Treaty of Rome stipulates that being a member of Europe is an essential qualification for membership in the Community. I have not read the text of the treaty, but I think there is a small loophole that enables Morocco to join the EEC if the member states agree to this.

As you know, decisions on this matter are dictated more by political considerations than by anything else. In any case, the reply of the Community to our request was very proper. I can tell you that I did not read between the lines; on the contrary, I sensed a desire to continue talks and reflections. I was later happy to receive Mr Delors [president of the EC Commission], whom I know very well and who told me that the Moroccan initiative brought a very great element of consideration to the EEC. As for whether or not our country has attained the level of development reached by the EC member states, I do not think you should blame us for the deeds of colonialism.

If we are not as developed as other European states, this is due to French and Spanish colonialism. Let me explain the situation. I do not bear any grudge or harbor any hatred toward France and Spain. On the contrary, there is great friendship between us and these two countries. But what happened is that just as France—by this I mean the territories that were under French rule—began industrializing, World War II broke out. Otherwise, we would have discovered oil wells or some sign of oil. Immediately after the end of the war, French officials closed all oil wells and embarked on a policy of heavy industry, as was the case in Algeria, instead of manufacturing. However, in 1944 the rebellious Moroccans—led by my father, Mohamed V, God bless his soul—began asking for independence. Then, all the plans for heavy industry and large investment were abandoned, and the Constantine Plan was prepared. After this, French officials devoted all their attention to the Reggane and Arzew regions [in Algeria] and the entire southern part of the Algerian Sahara. This is because these officials were convinced that Algeria was and would remain a French department. Therefore, it was a difficult time, but we are prepared to redouble our efforts.

Question: You have discussed southern Algeria; could we talk about southern Morocco? Morocco has now endured a conflict in the Sahara for 12 years. Polisario representatives are saying they are ready to negotiate and that you are refusing to do this. Is there anything to be negotiated?

Answer: I believe that negotiations are possible, but only after the referendum is conducted and analyzed. If it is positive, I will receive the Polisario elements so that I can discuss their future with them. This is because they are Moroccans, as far as I am concerned. We cannot snub our sons. If the referendum is negative and the population of the Sahara desires independence, then we will invite the Polisario elements to discuss an accord. This will take place after Morocco recognizes them as a state and after we conclude treaties or perhaps other intensive agreements with them that would lead us to consider establishing a federation or confederation. In any case, I welcome a dialogue and negotiations, after the referendum.

Question: We have heard about this referendum for years. When is it going to be held?

Answer: I have told not only the people, but also the United Nations and my friends the heads of state that we are prepared to hold this referendum tomorrow. I believe that this desire was thoroughly understood by the United Nations, and that this body has tasked the secretary general to this effect. To learn the exact nature of problems that might arise, the secretary general has decided to send a technical mission to that region. This mission will have to see for itself what is really happening in the military and security sectors. It will also have to determine whether the presence of Moroccan forces will have any influence on the outcome of the referendum. The mission will additionally examine the administrative setup.

As I told Mr Perez de Cuellar, I am prepared to put all Moroccan civil servants in the Sahara at his disposal.

I was very pleased when I learned that the mission was arriving on 20 November. I will be equally happy to welcome its members. The talk of a cease-fire has so far been based on previous cease-fires. However, when you visit the region, you will be able to see for yourself that a cease-fire only applies when there are clashes and confrontations between troops, as happened in the Golan and the Sinai. This led some people to distort the concept of a cease-fire. You will also be able to see that our cease-fire means that we and the others refrain from fighting, since there is no armed confrontation. Consequently, I believe that this cease-fire will be one of the easiest to settle. Question: This issue does not involve only a dispute between Morocco and the Polisario; other states are also involved. How do you view the role of Algeria in this disagreement?

Answer: All I can tell you is that according to one of your colleagues—I will not mention his name, but he is a French colleague who used to be one of President Boumedienne's confidants and later became one of my friends—President Boumedienne, may God have mercy on his soul, confided to him 4 or 6 six weeks before he died, when the war was in its 3d year: If I had known that Morocco would stand fast for 3 years, I would not have gotten myself involved in this dispute at all. It had been arranged for us to meet on 13 and 14 July. Since I knew him so well, we were definitely going to meet to reach a solution to this issue. But this was not God's will: The president died before this.

Question: Then, as far as Algeria is concerned today, it just wants to save face.

Answer: I have no animosity toward Algeria, but I will tell you, as I recently stated: There are no problems between Morocco and Algeria. Therefore, I do not understand why Algeria has so stubbornly insisted on sticking its nose into this affair. It is rightly concerned, as is Mauritania, that a conflict is taking place on its borders, and it cannot remain indifferent. But in my opinion, Mauritania is much more calm and less strident. It is one thing for Algeria to fear fighting near its frontiers, but another matter for it to adopt certain diplomatic attitudes.

The Algerian president has always been very skillful and has never shocked others. It may be said that it is not easy to distinguish between a head of state and his diplomacy. But I can say that this is a question of style. The style is the man, as Pascal once said. Therefore, I think that President Bendjedid's style is more appropriate than his diplomacy.

Question: What is your opinion of the Swedish attitude toward the Sahara conflict?

Answer: Sweden's policy has always been a surprise to all. Some people may understand this attitude, but others do not. Those who do not will eventually come to comprehend it, while those who now understand it may one day find they no longer do at all. I believe that one must differentiate between the Swedish people and Swedish policy. The Swedish people live thousands of kilometers away from North Africa. Also, your civilization arose from the environment peculiar to that area. As for our civilization, it emerged in our region. I believe that when Sweden comes to understand the suitability of the Moroccan attitude—as I know the social and philosophical background of Sweden—it will be one of the first to defend it.

Question: The war is costing a great deal. How long are you going to continue like this? Are there any friendly states, such as Saudi Arabia, that are bearing part of the burden of this war?

Answer: I can tell you that the last aid we received was at least 4 or 5 years ago. It enabled us to acquire equipment, which we are still making payments on. Contrary to popular opinion, our friends in the Gulf have not been pouring money into Morocco. I ask nothing from them, for they have their own problems. I wish only one thing: Namely, that they solve their own problems. As for us, we will (?try and manage and fight), but we will defend our territorial integrity.

Question: Are you happy with the political and social system of the country, or is there anything that you wish to change?

Answer: A short while ago we discussed the environment in which the civilization and personality of each country has flourished. There are a great many things that should be improved. There are a great many things that can be improved. I believe it is necessary to make things better than they were; however, sometimes the best is the enemy of the good [this is a play on words; the word for "good" is the same as the king's name]. I believe that my role in this process is not always replacing, changing, or adding a section to the Constitution, or deleting another part from it. My role above all else is to compel our national representatives in parliament, government, and the judiciary to always adhere to the philosophy of the Constitution and to its logical and historical objectives. Naturally, if there is any ambiguity between laws and specific statutes, this will be a judicial question and one that we are prepared to solve. However, if we examine our Constitution and the way in which we operate, we will find that the team has performed its role satisfactorily over the past 4 years. I believe that as long as the team is performing up to par, there is no need to change it. It instead should be developed. We are thus prepared to improve our team.

King, UAE President Discuss Amman Summit

JN162022 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1705 GMT 16 Nov 87

[Text] Fes, 16 Nov (WAM)— His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, head of state, met with His Majesty King Hussan II of Morocco in Fes at 1800 UAE time. They discussed Arab developments against the backdrop of the escalation of the Iraq-Iran war. They also reviewed the positive results of the extraordinary Arab summit in Amman and joint efforts to restore Arab solidarity.

His highness expressed his satisfaction with the results of the summit, hoping they will crystallize in a common Arab effort in a climate of reconciliation and accord. He additionally stated his renunciation of inter-Arab differences to address the challenges and dangers confronting the Arab nation. The sides also examined how to further develop and enhance cooperation between the UAE and Morocco.

Sudan

Al-Mahdi on Ethiopian Role in Border Attack

JN171224 Khartoum SUNA in English 0935 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Khartoum, Nov 17 (SUNA)—Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has threatened that Sudan is capable to react fiercefully and harmfully against Ethiopia if it again acts aggressively against Sudan. Commenting in a press conference yesterday on Ethiopian involvement in the recent attack on the Sudanese border town of Al-Kurmuk Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi warned that the situation in most of the neighbouring countries are fragile and precarious and that these countries should bear the full responsibility of any aggressive acts against Sudan.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi denied the presence of any Chadian gangs contributing in the armed looting along the joint borders.

On the wave of the trade unions' strikes currently overwhelming the country Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said they were unjustifiable, ill timed and did not abide to the articles of laws which determine the stages of dispute between the employers and imployees.

Replying to a question on the ambiguity of Sudan's foreign policy Al-Mahdi said it was clear and those who claimed its ambiguity are really seeking to take Sudan to a specific international camp to make it a subordinate to a foreign axis.

SPLA's John Garang on Peace Plan

EA102054 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1310 GMT 9 Nov 87

[Interview with John Garang de Mabior, commander in chief of the SPLA, with unidentified reporters of the *Sudan Times;* date and place not specified—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Recently there were some activities after Al-Sadiq's initiative. There is the Communist Party initiative. The Sudan Council of Churches proposed the meeting with the southern political parties here and what are the prospects of such activities?

[Garang] Well, you have talked about three initiatives: Al-Sadiq's initiatives, followed by the Sudan Communist Party, and followed by the Sudan Council of Churches initiatives. Well, I will take them one by one. Al-Sadiq's initiative was no initiative. You probably have seen it, if you haven't, you will see it. It is written on a plain sheet of paper without letterhead, addressed to nobody, no specific person or group of persons or our org zation, no date. A very unorganized way of doing things indeed, that is, format! It starts with the words: To those still holding arms. Those are very many in the Sudan. The SPLA is one of them. The Sudan Army is one of them.

There are people who call themselves murahilin in Al-Sadiq's militia, whom he is arming, are one of them. There are other political parties in the country, and this is known, that are armed. There are organized thieves who fall under nobody, taking advantage of the war situation and of the instability in the country. Even in Khartoum there are people with illegal arms. So, for Al-Sadiq to be serious, because the issue is serious, we are talking about peace, war and peace, for an initiative to be serious and they put in that format of no letter head, we really do not know if it came from Al-Sadiq, or the prime minister. But it is from the person who delivered it to us, from his words, he said that it came from the prime minister's office.

So at least that is one indication that it is possible it came from the office of the prime minister. In the whole text there is not a single mention of the SPLA or of the SPLM. For us to presume that this is a peace initiative addressed to us, this is a tall assumption. Anyway, that is the format—if it was addressed to us, of course it would have mentioned us. I met Al-Sadiq here for 9-10 hours in Addis. If he could meet me he should have the guts to mention the name SPLA, if it had been addressed to the SPLA. So it was not addressed to the SPLA. So that was no initiative. That is the format.

In tems of content, even if it was addressed to nobody, no letter head, very bad English—even if this is the situation, but there was something concrete, something that can bring about or can initiate the process of peace, we would have responded positively. But there was nothing substantive. It was a gamble of what? There is nothing new in the initiative. So much for Al-Sadiq's so-called initiative.

It is something to make propaganda out of that he has made a peace initiative. There is no peace initiative he has made. If you go to Khartoum, you go and ask where it actually came from or if it actually came from him, because we are not sure it came from him. If it came from the prime minister's office, then the prime minister's office must be very disorganized indeed. So I will withold such a comment because I am not sure it came from the prime minister's office.

The initiative of the Communist Party, essentially, talked about Koka Dam. And we have, all the political parties, have been talking about Koka Dam. So it is really not a new initiative but it is the initiative of Koka Dam.

People have been playing around with Koka Dam and with the National Constitutional Conference for that matter, everybody claims that it is his (?guide). It may be about that [word indistinct] the Koka Dam [words indistinct] National Constitutional conference Al-Sadiq makes so much out of it, that he is the one who is calling for the National Constitutional Conference. He is not the one calling for the National Constitutional Conference nor is it the SPLA but it is all the Sudanese political forces. So, at Koka Dam, we were many.

There was SPLM, there was Ummah, there was the other political parties, the National Alliance. All these are the ones that sat for several days and thrashed out the Koka Dam Declaration. And the call for the National Constitutional Conference we stick with it. With any initiative that is consistent with the Koka Dam Declaration, we welcome a Koka Dam (?extension). So insofar as the initiative of the Communist Party is the same thing with Koka Dam, we would welcome it. If it is something else, if there are other funny things in it, then we would have our reservations. But we are committed to Koka Dam. We signed it and we are not going to withdraw from it.

There was a liaison committee that was formed after Koka Dam. On our side, our side was represented by Major Arok as chairman on our side. There were on the other side, there were people like Dr Taisir. This liaison committee was going on with its work. But then as you know this Fokker, the Sudan Air Lines plane, was shot over Malakal. We had warned earlier, before this plane was shot, that Al-Sadiq, just like we are warning now, that Al-Sadiq was using civilian aircraft to transport military hardware and it was difficult for us to identify which is which from (?the air). So we said that until further notice, until we are satisfied that Al-Sadiq has stopped using this, no plane should fly. And unfortunately this warning was not heeded and a plane was sent. It was shot down over Malakal.

Al-Sadiq grabbed this as an opportunity to kill Koka Dam. It is Al-Sadiq who stopped the peace process not the shooting down of the plane. As soon as he arrived in Khartoum after our talks here he was talking about a national committee, when we had already formed a liaison committee he was talking about his own national committee—you know he wants to be seen as the one bringing about peace. Which is okay if he can bring it about. All we want is peace. But he started to talk about others who were not present in Koka Dam—The DUP [Democratic Unionist Party], was not there, the National Islamic Front was not there. And, as he said anyway, times have changed.

These are his words that times have changed. There is a new situation. The new situation, of course, was that when the Koka Dam conference was made, Al-Sadiq was not the prime minister [words indistinct] but the new situation is that he was in power, so once you are in power, this is (?the big thing). There is a new situation, irrespective of principles.

We had agreed at Koka Dam—we did not agree [as heard] that if Ummah came into power we would abolish Koka Dam. It was not part of the Koka Dam agreement, but Al-Sadiq says that or presumes that it is there, or that he has the right to abrogate it if he had come to power. So, the plane incident over Malakal came as an opportunity for Al-Sadiq to kill Koka Dam, something which he wanted to kill before anyway.

And I have been asking the question. The SPLA warned the prime minister that no planes should fly over the south, over war zone I. The warning was not heeded. The plane was sent. The plane was shot down. Very unfortunate! Innocent people died in it, but we are at war. What the prime minister—he should know this, if he does not know—he is the minister of defense. In war, planes get shot. Planes get shot, civilian and military. Very recently there was a civilian plane even without a war situation that was shot between the USA and the Soviet Union, I believe— over Korea or where was it?

Lots of innocent lives got lost there. That did not stop the USSR and the U.S. from talking about arms control, talking about disarmament, and so on.

During the Second World War a very big bomb was dropped over Hiroshima, but of course many innocent people died. Pregnant women, children, old people. That atom bomb did not discriminate. So, based in Japanese war, unfortunate incidents happen in war. [sentence as heard] But that cannot give the prime minister the right or the power to shoot down the peace process. You know, you have to compare the two situation. Shooting down one plane which is with innocent lives—which is very unfortunate—and shooting down the whole peace process, which is most unfortunate because there is no way that it will stop more planes being shot down.

Since then more planes have been shot down. Since then lots of trucks have been destroyed, lots of banks have been destroyed, lots of lives have been lost. So, by this—the peace process of the Sudan Communist Party you are talking about—as long as it is based on Koka Dam, we do not have any objection and it should be followed up. We are not the stumbling block. Anybody can come up with his peace process but if the government of the day in Khartoum—and we say this in the resolutions of the Koka Dam—that the government of the day in Khartoum should facilitate, should not impede, should not be an obstacle. This is contained in the Koka Dam resolutions.

As long as the government of the day in Khartoum—whether it is Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's or somebody else's—as long as it is an impediment, an obstacle, then whatever peace initiative—whether it is Koka Dam, whether it is that of the Sudan Communist Party, whether it is that of the Sudan Council of Churches, whether it is that of anybody else or any other friendly country that is interested in the Sudan—we will not make any headway. Because the truth of the matter is that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, after we met here for 9 hours, he left resolved, very much resolved, that he was going to achieve military victory. And he said he was going to achieve this. He even mentioned the date. He said, or he is reported to have said, that he was going to achieve military victory in December, and then in January he would hold a national constitutional conference with the weakened SPLA or without SPLA altogether.

December 10th, and we were still there. You can wish a mountain away, but it cannot move. So he is reported to have said that, by May, and that is the end of the dry season when the Sudanese Army has maximum mobility on the ground, that the SPLA should be defeated and he would hold a national constitutional conference again with a weakened SPLA or without the SPLA also.

So you see, the obstacle to peace is Al-Sadiq's belief, or imagination, or wish that the SPLA must either first be destroyed or weakened and then the national constitutional conference would be held. I told him here. I told him during our meeting here in Addis, when the meeting was almost over, I told him: Mr Prime Minister, now that you are going to the Sudan I know precisely what you are going to do. He asked me: How do you know? I said: I am reading it in your mind. So he asked me: What do you read in my mind? I said: When you go to the Sudan you are going to intensify the war.

Do you believe now that we have talked to you the way people should not talk to Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi? That we have been arrogant and that this is because of our military strength in the field and that we must be reduced to size before you could talk meaningful peace with us? But this is what you believe and this is what you are going to do. And I told him that this is unfortunate because you will not be able to do it. I told him that I, as the commander in chief of the SPLA, and you as the

minister of defense, as the worthy opponent adversary, if you are going towards achieving military victory, which is unattainable, then I advise you to go and have an army of 600,000.

When you raise this army of 600,000 you train them, you recruit them, you train them, you arm them. Two hundred thousand is going to come to the SPLA, and when this 200,000 comes to the SPLA they will be guerrillas, so you will need a ratio of 1 to 10. You will need 2 million in order to come and fight your own creation, your own 200,000. So, Mr Prime Minister, you cannot win a military victory.

I told him that if I were you, if I were in your shoes—his shoes are much bigger than him—I told him if I were you, Mr Prime Minister, on my arrival in Khartoum I would immediately hold a press conference. Think about it. And I would announce that we are implementing Koka Dam to the letter.

I told him: Do not worry about what the DUP would say, or what the DUP would do, or what the National Islamic Front would do. And do not forget also what the SPLA can do and will do. So worry about these three things and, most of all, worry about the Sudanese people.

You are now, on arrival, (?saying) that you are going to implement Koka Dam to the letter and I assure you, Al-Sadiq, the following day I will declare a ceasefire. The DUP and the National Islamic Front will cry over spoiled milk. They will cry to raise resistance not so strong but their voices will be drowned by the Sudanese people because people want peace. [sentence as heard] If you do this you will have saved the Sudan. You will have saved your own political career. But if you do not do this you are doomed. We were very frank in that discussion.

Sure enough, he went and did what we saw in his mind he was going to do—intensify the war. He said he was going to make a celebration of the uprising in Boma. He said it was us who captured Pibor. Pibor is ahead of—geographically—to the northwest of Boma. It was us who captured Pibor. It was us who captured Jokau, captured his commanders. And it was him, even though he denies it in his speech which I listened to the speech [words indistinct] about Jokau responsibility, responsibility of Jokau.

Of course, a commander is responsible for what he is known to do well, as well as for what he is going to do badly. A commander is responsible for achievements as well as for failures. So, whoever is responsible for the fall of Jokau, it is ultimately the failure of the Ministry of Defense or the minister of defense. This is a universally acknowledged principle, whether you are a platoon commander, a company commander, a battalion commander, or a minister of defense. The ultimate responsibility lies with you as the commander in chief. There are victories and defeats.

Sudan Airways Employees End 20-Day Strike

JN171846 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Nov (SUNA)—Employees of the Sudan Airways Company have ended their 20-day strike after mediation by the 12-member committee made up of trade unions supporting the airways employees. A trade unionist at Sudan Airways told SUNA that the strike has ended under the agreement reached with the board of directors last week. Under the agreement, the company will not be privatized, the labor law on individual basis will be banned, and expulsions will be ended on bases to be agreed upon later.

He added that a meeting between the 12-member committee on one hand and the new director general of the Sudan Airways Company and a number of the members of the board of directors took place today and all of them agreed to abide by the latest solution as the best one.

The trade unions supporting the employees of the Sudan Airways staged a 24-hour strike yesterday in solidarity with the employees.

The strike staged by the employees of the Sudan Airways Company, which was liquidated and replaced by a new company, was to protest the expulsion of 500 employees by the new company.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Names Treasurer, Fires 2 Officials

LD181312 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, chairman of the Destourian Socialist Party, has decided to appoint Slaheddine Baly, member of the Political Bureau, to be party treasurer. He has also resolved to relieve Mansour Skhiri and Amor Chedli of their positions as assistant secretaries general of the party.

In addition, the party chairman has decided to dismiss Mansour Skhiri and Mohamed Sayah from the Political Bureau.

Baccouche Comments on Domestic, Arab Issues

JN161812 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 15 Nov 87 pp 14, 15

[Interview with Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche by 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Masa'id in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm*: Following the recent change—the corrective movement, which you have said was not a coup—there have been reports that some leftist and Communist Party factions have raised

the subject of the economic situation or hinted at nationalization. In the past there was some malpractice, negligence, and an absence of a sound assessment of the problems facing the investment of Arab, particularly Gulf, funds. What is your opinion of this?

Prime Minister: I would like to tell you that there will be no nationalization whatsoever. We are definitely not considering any nationalization or any decisions that would negatively affect our economy, which we are instead trying to strengthen. We will not limit or curtail the volume of investment or firmly based cooperation. We can thus reassure those investing their assets in present or future joint projects and guarantee them confidence and stability. Encouraging capital and investment has our attention. President Ben Ali considers the economic question to be fundamental. We place a high priority on developing relations with all brothers and friends, particularly fraternal Kuwait, which we have the closest of ties with. Ever since I was governor of a Tunisian governorate about 25 years ago, I have followed cooperation and relations between Kuwait and Tunisia. These ties were strong and will continue and grow stronger.

There are no slogans, Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz, that contradict reality. I would like to tell you that our cooperation with Kuwait is ideal. The Kuwaiti brothers are civilized. They know how to carry out their calculations and how to follow up and carefully examine projects. Mutual confidence is the basis of close cooperation.

Al-Ra'y al-'Amm: What about domestic steps that have been taken on the economy, investments, financial contributions, and the new stage?

Prime Minister: In a situation like that of Tunisia, all people participate. In Tunisia, regardless of the people's different opinions, the political soil is not fertile for communism, leftism, or other ideologies. Communism erred in most of its stages. Jews of French nationality were in the communist movement. They were no less colonialist than the capitalists. They always opposed freedom; they believed that peoples could not gain their freedom before the liberation of the world proletariat. So far, and even with the possible increase of their power through the full democratic march in party pluralism, these persons will only be a minority with no roots. They will not be more leftist or communist than some university teachers and students or others. They do not possess the necessary qualities to assume official responsibility no matter who they are, even if they have one or two deputies. We have had our own experience. The results of this and those of the experiences of others are clear to us.

We have political and economic plans. We are committed to what is in line with our society. An economic reform plan is being drawn up by the government under the supervision and follow-up of the president of the Republic. Since assuming power, the president has adopted positive measures to increase reassurance and trust and to promote public welfare in both domestic and foreign policies. Now that he is at the peak of authority as president of the Republic, there is no need to fear anything that might disturb Gulf, Arab, or foreign investors. We are confident of our actions and ability to rectify matters. I do not think there are any fears concerning this approach. Tunisia, like all Muslim countries, is a centrist nation and one that examines matters by considering their beneficial results. I would like to reassure you about investing here like we have assured and are still assuring all local investors. The objective is to maintain mutual respect, which we care about and from which we will proceed.

Al-Ra'y al-'Amm: Does the new government intend to dispatch delegations of economic and investment specialists to some Arab countries to explain the reality of the current economic, investment, and political situation?

Prime Minister: This is possible. There are, of course, fields that can be explained. We think that an honest press like yours is the best way to convey an accurate picture and to call it as you see it. This country lies open before you.

Al-Ra'y al-'Amm: There is a question concerning those who exploited the past regime or harmed the country's economic situation by embezzling public funds. Will they be put on trial?

Prime Minister: You have done well to ask this question to reassure the people. We must be clear on the issue of excesses and the embezzlement of public funds; we do not accuse people at random. We must make certain that charges are brought against only those who committed excesses against the state or embezzled public funds. I would like to explain a point here. The merchant is a merchant and the craftsman is a craftsman. I do not want to impose an ethical system on the merchant or the craftsman. If the matter is one of controlling ethics, the merchant or the craftsman will become a hermit. There is a difference. This does not mean the exploitation or skimming of public monies. There are legitimate means. How can the merchant profit and the craftsman succeed? There are various ways to make a profit, but they must be legal. Activities must not be connected with the influence of a particular job or position. For example, I cannot allow a wealthy man to exploit his public post for his own interests.

We are hard on people like that. Therefore, we take into account those whom you may call the establishment of wealthy men. These are persons who exploit their positions or influence in the name of the government in the fields of trade, industry, and agriculture. How can things go right if they work in government yet resort to the style of merchants? This is impermissible. We are going to distinguish between public positions and exploitation or

excess. There are restrictions. At the same time, we encourage all lawful initiatives and contributions. We will not allow any excesses to affect public monies.

Economic reforms are taking place as I mentioned at the start. These coincide with various other reforms.

Al-Ra'y al-'Amm: How many people were arrested or detained following the corrective movement?

Prime Minister: No more than seven or eight. Apprehending them was a precautionary measure. Those who were taken at the time have been and are being released, as was announced at a news conference. Moreover, there has been no effort to open a file for political trials.

Al-Ra'y al-'Amm: Mr Prime Minister, there have been rumors abroad concerning the health of former President Bourguiba. Will your government allow him to travel abroad?

Prime Minister: Such rumors are absolutely untrue. Former President Bourguiba has personally chosen the palace in La Mornaghia in which he is currently staying to be his residence. Yesterday, for example, he received Omar Chedli, his private doctor, who is now with Bourguiba along with those others who wanted to be with him. This includes Sa'idah al-Sasi, Bourguiba's niece, who is the daughter of his sister. Bourguiba also has his own medical equipment.

The prime minister announced that the new era appreciates the history of the Bourguiba era without encroaching on it. He added that once the situation had deteriorated, the change came in response to a mammoth popular will and according to the Constitution. The change also took place following an attempt by some of those close to the former president to take advantage of his ailment. The prime minister added: As for Bourguiba's traveling abroad, he can do so whenever he wishes. I would like to assert that Bourguiba is free to travel if he wishes. [summary of reply by prime minister as published]

Al-Ra'y al-'Amm: Will the government allow former Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali to return to Tunisia if he asks to do this?

Prime Minister: Any Tunisian abroad can return to Tunisia at any time. As for Mzali, there is a verdict against him. If he asks to return home, a way of addressing this verdict will have to be found. We are in an era that believes in democracy and in the freedom guaranteed to all citizens. Judicial verdicts should therefore follow procedures for those convicted.

Al-Ra'y al-'Amm: What about Mrs Fathiyah Mzali, the wife of Mzali?

Prime Minister: She and her children have obtained passports at their own request. I was told that she attended the House of Representatives session in which President Zine El Abedine Ben Ali took the oath of the Constitution.

Al-Ra'y al-'Amm: Are there any Tunisian diplomatic transfers abroad due to the new changes?

Prime Minister: Part of this may be carried out in light of the public interest. In our policy, we proceed from the homeland's interest in all fields.

Al-Ra'y al-'Amm: Would you outline the proceedings of the first cabinet meeting, which was chaired by President Zine El Abedine Ben Ali?

Prime Minister: It was a full working session. The president urged that the government follow up on the reformist decisions covering all areas. Official holidays have also been reconsidered. (*Al-Ra'y al-'Amm* has learned that the number of annual holidays on which government departments and ministries are closed has been cut from 18 to 13. The holidays no longer in effect include the birthday of the former president, the anniversary of his return to the homeland, and the anniversary of his assumption to power. The cabinet has also endorsed the new national anthem—the revolution anthem—to replace the old one glorifying Bourguiba.)

Al-Ra'y al-'Amm: As for your relations with the sister states of the Arab Maghreb, do you support a unified Grand Maghreb?

Prime Minister: The ties are close, built on trust and brotherhood. Whatever proposal promotes the strength of this [Arab] nation undoubtedly has our support.

Al-Ra'y al-'Amm: What is the state of your relations with the Libyan Jamahiriyah since your recent visit there? (This refers to the time when Ben Ali was minister of labor and social affairs and worked with Libyan officials to resolve the problems of and compensation for Tunisian workers in Libya.)

Prime Minister: Relations are good, and we hope they will improve further. Tunisia has a consul general in Libya. A good number of the problems of Tunisian labor have been sorted out with the Libyan officials. We want our relations with all the brothers to be close and based on mutual respect.

Al-Ra'y al-'Amm: What do you think of the Amman extraordinary Arab summit resolutions?

Prime Minister: The positive resolutions and results of the summit are heartening, and we hope they will be followed through. The Tunisian delegation to the conference was led by the foreign minister, who briefed the participants on Tunisian developments since President Zine El Abedine Ben Ali assumed his constitutional

responsibilities. As you know, the president has received numerous telegrams and phone calls of support and good wishes from sisterly and friendly countries. It has been most gratifying to see the Arab countries gather at the summit level to address their fateful issues and work to smooth over their outstanding differences.

We maintain good relations with Egypt. The extraordinary Arab summit has broken all chains since it opened the door for Arab League member states to resume relations with Egypt. The presence of the Arab League Headquarters in Tunis will have no current or future effect. This presence, as you know, was the result of an Arab decision. We welcome any plan to keep these headquarters in Tunis. If the Arab countries decide otherwise, that will not be a problem for us. When I was a minister in the government of former Prime Minister Hedi Nouira, some Arab sides asked to move the headquarters of the Arab League to Tunis. We agreed to this and voiced our appreciation for the trust of our Arab brothers. Therefore, we maintain good relations with everyone. We even maintain such relations with President Mubarak and Egypt. There will be other steps in this regard. As I said, all chains were broken during the recent Arab summit in Amman.

I repeat that hosting the Arab League Headquarters will not present a problem. We will shoulder our responsibilities. We will blame no one and we will not hesitate when the time comes. As for Egypt, Usamah al-Baz [Egyptian director of the Presidential Office for Political Affairs] visited us; we held useful talks with him. We then decided to send a person with the rank of ambassador to him; our decision will be implemented within a certain period. [sentence as published]

As is known, the GCC secretary general will release a statement announcing the resumption of diplomatic ties between the Gulf countries and Egypt. Some of these countries announced this during the summit conference. The Arab League will also take a step in this regard, as decided by the Arab conference.

Al-Ra'y al-'Amm: How do you view Iran's acts of aggression against Kuwaiti territory and economic and oil facilities? Also, what is your position on the Gulf war?

Prime Minister: Immediately after Kuwait was attacked by Iran, we voiced our full support for Kuwait out of our belief in brotherhood and duty. At the same time, we appreciate its attempts to avoid any clash. I announce that we are ready to place our capabilities and our Arab and foreign relations at Kuwait's disposal at any time. This is a declared, firm position. We take the same position toward fraternal Iraq because Iran continues to reject a peace initiative and because this regrettable and destructive war should end. The Arab summit conference centered on this war and the Iranian aggression. I stressed our position during a news conference I gave several days ago.

Al-Ra'y al-'Amm: The Collective Arab Defense Pact has lain in the drawers of the Arab League for many years. What do you think about it? Iraq and Kuwait are vulnerable to Iranian aggression.

Prime Minister: Of course we support this pact. If fraternal Kuwait requests anything at any time, we will respond positively and will respond to the call of duty toward our brothers. This also applies to Iraq. The situation requires a firm and strong Arab position to compel Iran to respond to peace efforts and Security Council Resolution No 598, which calls for an end to the war. Any unified and strong Gulf position for confronting the current dangers will be welcomed as a step toward the Collective Arab Defense Pact.

Al-Ra'y al-'Amm: Your Excellency, there is much talk concerning efforts to convene an international peace conference on the Palestine question. What do you think about this?

Prime Minister: We in Tunisia support the idea of the international conference despite some retreat. The international conference is a sound solution to the problem. We support it. However, we cannot distance the Soviet Union from this conference if we want to guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people.

Al-Ra'y al-'Amm: What about Tunisian-Palestinian relations and the status of the PLO in Tunisia in this new era?

Prime Minister: This status will be normal. There is no change in our position on this issue. As soon as 'Arafat returns, the president will meet with him. As for support for the Palestine question and the rights of the Palestinian people, we firmly support the validity of these rights.

Tunis Mayor Receives Soviet Fleet Admiral

LD171432 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Tunis, 17 Nov (TAP)—Mohamed Ali Boulayman, the mayor of Tunis, received Rear Admiral Vladimir Yegorov, commander of the Soviet Mediterranean Fleet, this morning at Municipality House.

The meeting came within the framework of courtesy visits Rear Adm Vladimir Yegorov is paying to a number of Tunisian officials on the occasion of the visit by units of the Soviet fleet to the port of Goulet du Lac.

Development of USSR Cooperation Examined

LD170317 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 16 Nov 87

[Text] A ministerial working session was held at La Kasbah yesterday evening under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche. The session was devoted to examining the development of Tunisian-Soviet cooperation and its prospects. Preparations for

the next session of the Tunisian-Soviet joint committee, which is scheduled to meet in Moscow on [words indistinct] of November, were also discussed.

Western Sahara

50 Moroccans Killed in Operations 31 Oct

LD161146 Algiers APS in English 1055 GMT 16 Nov 87

[Text] SDAR (Liberated Territories), November 16 (APS)—More than 50 Moroccan soldiers were killed during October 31 military operations waged by the Saharan People's Liberation Army against the Moroccan Army in Oudei Zazaa, Grart el Koumcha and various place in Western Sahara, a communique of the Saharan Ministry of Information announced Sunday.

A great quantity of Moroccan armament was destroyed during these operations, the Saharan communique added.

Information Ministry on Moroccan Harassment

LD180021 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] According to the Saharan Ministry of Information, (?a large number of) police and gendarmes are arriving from all the towns of Morocco into the occupied Saharan territory. Stringent identity checks and open intimidation are applied against the Saharan people when they are not thrown into prison all together.

Identity checkpoints manned by police, Army, and gendarmes reportedly are set up at points giving access to the roads; the access to the occupied territory from Mauritania, [words indistinct] and even from Morocco is banned. Morocco has ordered that all suspects be apprehended without warning, the Saharan Ministry of Information adds, which points to the fact that this deployment and the police measures are linked to a forthcoming visit by the UN technical mission to the occupied Saharan territory.

Iranian Envoy Presents Credentials

LD181024 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Algiers, Nov. 18, IRNA—Iran's ambassador to Algeria Siavosh Zargaran-Ya'qubi who is also ambassador extraordinary to Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), submitted his credentials to the SADR president, Mohamed Abdelaziz.

Stressing Iran's support for the Saharan revolution, the Iranian diplomat said that the righteous struggles of Muslim people of the two countries are in one direction—against global oppression and its agents.

On the Persian Gulf issues, Zargaran-Ya'qubi said that Kuwait's measure on reflagging its ships not only paved the way for military expedition of U.S. and NATO forces to the region, but threatened relative independence of southern Persian Gulf countries.

Referring to the recent Arab summit, he said that the outcome of the meeting was even worse than the Kuwaiti measures. It gave some Arab leaders the chance to officially resume their relations with Egypt which would finally be to the benefit of the Zionist regime.

Meanwhile, President Abdelaziz praised the Islamic Revolution of Iran and reiterated support for it. He said that during the past 15 years, the Saharan revolution has fought against plots which were now being hatched against Iran.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister on Summit, Egypt's Return

LD180950 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0725 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Nov (KUNA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has expressed his satisfaction with the outcome of the emergency Arab summit in Amman, saying that it was 80 percent successful. In an interview with *Al-Qabas*, he stated that the Amman summit had brought out the pan-Arab feeling after years of discord and disputes had shaken the Arab world.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that four main resolutions were adopted at this conference, in addition to many other secondary resolutions, and it was clear that no state withdrew and that there was no veto to thwart the conference. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister also praised the great efforts made by King Husayn to ensure the success of the summit and to bring together President Saddam Husayn and President Hafiz al-Asad in a meeting whose results will become apparent in the next few days.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad added that "the Iraqi-Syrian meeting indeed yielded good results...and there were no theatricals. I also believe that this meeting will have an impact on the policy of our brothers in Syria toward our brothers in the Gulf and in Iraq."

He added that Syria is trying in its own way to stop the Iraq-Iran war. He said that he believed Syria would not adopt a stance against Iran but would adopt a stance by which it would call Tehran's attention to the danger of continuing the war.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahad defended the return of Egypt to the Arab fold and explained the difference between resuming diplomatic relations with it on a bilateral basis, a decision that concerns each state alone, and its return to the Arab League.

He stressed that Jordan's King Husayn will follow this up in Cairo and the subject will be submitted before the next summit. He noted that it is wrong to link Article 6 of the Camp David agreement and Egypt's assistance to its Arab brothers, adding that "President Husni Mubarak has resolved this affair once and for all in his address to the Egyptian People's Assembly when he said that Egypt abides by the joint defense charter. In my view this is enough."

Asked about the Iranian concentration of forces in the southern sector of the Iraqi front, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister replied that he regrets the threats and military preparations that are taking place despite UN Security Council Resolution 598, which is a balanced resolution giving Iraq and Iran their rights.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad stressed in his interview with the newspaper's chief editor that Kuwait is not a party to the war with Iran. "However, if something happened to Kuwait or to Basra, we are neighbors. The fire is not far and neighbors always take precautions."

He expressed his hope that Iran would not carry out its threats, stressing that this would have a reaction [words indistinct] not only from the Arab world but from the whole world.

Qatar

Diplomatic Relations Resumed With Egypt

JN181055 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0935 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Excerpt] Doha, 18 Nov (WAKH)—The State of Qatar has announced that it is resuming full diplomatic relations with Egypt. The decision was made by the Cabinet during a session today chaired by the amir of Qatar, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani. The decision was reported by QNA.

The Qatari Cabinet decided to restore diplomatic and political relations with the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt as of today on the basis of its belief in the close ties of brotherhood and the unity of purpose and destiny that bind the State of Qatar and the Arab Republic of Egypt and in view of its appreciation of Egypt's essential role in strengthening collective Arab action based on comprehensive Arab solidarity.

During the session, the amir of Qatar reviewed the positive results of the extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman, Jordan, from 8-11 November 1987. His highness said that, God willing, the summit's results will be effective in strengthening Arab solidarity and devoting all efforts to achieving Arab higher interests and safeguarding the Arab nation's security, dignity, and safety.

The amir of Qatar also expressed his great appreciation for the great efforts made by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan under the leadership of King Husayn ibn Talal to ensure the summit's success.

The Cabinet highly praised the summit's constructive results and declared its approval of and support for them. [passage omitted]

President Addresses War Production Employees

JN172044 Baghdad INA in English 1730 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 17, INA—President Saddam Husayn today said that "any serious step on the right way starts in the deep consciences of men, particularly when they believe that there is nothing impossible on earth." In a message directed to personnel of the war production establishments, President Husayn said that the outbreak [as received] of the ordinary human being capabilities and potentials are widely based in his deep conscience.

President Husayn message reads:

"As your consciences are filled with faith to serve the great Iraq, hence you achieved a great step in manufacturing mortars' ammunitions within a record time, a time that seems impossible in accordance with the calculations and behaviours of the traditionists."

President Husayn praised efforts being exerted by personnel of the war production factories and all those working in the same way and determination in other governmental establishments.

It is to be noted that Colonel Husayn Kamil, responsible of war production establishments [as received], had sent a message to President Husayn which includes indications of development of the war production equipments, quantitatively and qualitatively. In his message which coincided with the 5th anniversary of the Iraqi people allegiance to their leader, President Saddam Husayn, Colonel Husayn pledged further developments in war production.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

Bushehr Port Attacked

JN171150 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1051 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Communique No 2,917 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 17 November]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] On this blessed day, our Air Force has carried out a unique heroic action. Through accurate guidance from the Iraqi Command and distinguished preparations, our destructive planes, led by our true and rapacious hawks, flew to Bushehr Port at 1100 -0800 GMT] today. With their known courage and skill they penetrated the enemy air defenses, which are the strongest of the Iranian defenses and which were supplied to the Iranian rulers by the enemy of the Arab nation, Zionism. They raided their selected target, the very important petrochemical industrial complex. The former and current Iranian rulers and their allies attached great importance to this complex.

Large numbers of our aircraft showered heavy destructive bombs on their target. They destroyed their targets, turned them into rubble, and instilled horror and grief in the sick hearts of the Iranian rulers who deserve this. After the Iraqi hawks carried out this heroic duty with great skill, they all returned with their planes safely and triumphantly to the homeland, bearing tidings of great victory to their great leader and deep-rooted people.

These are the men of President Saddam Husayn. Who can produce men like these? Blessed be the men of our heroic Air Force—commanders, hawks, officers, and other ranks. Long live our people. Long live our great leader Saddam Husayn. Long live our valiant Armed Forces. Praise be to God, the helper of the believers.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 Nov 1987

Iranian Force Repulsed

JN171455 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1358 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Communique No 2,918 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 17 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God for His support and abundant gifts. O glorious Iraqis: On these blessed days, you are pledging allegiance to your symbol of pride and the carrier of your banner on the path of victory, President Saddam Husayn. These days coincide with the joy of victory over the enemies of God and your country. God has chosen these days in particular to disappoint those who have ambitions toward our country and who harbor a grudge against our progress. Saddam Husayn is Iraq's victory, progress, and lofty edifice.

Our enemies, who poisoned the atmosphere of their country and the region with abuses and incompetent prattle, today made an attempt like the drowned man who clings to a straw to raise the morale of the defeated herds. At 0155 today [2255 GMT on 16 November], our enemies sent out a force estimated at three infantry regiments, supported with tanks, in a frivolous attempt to gain a foothold in some of our positions guarded by the brave men of the heroic Muslim ibn 'Aqil Forces.

When the enemy forces were spotted, the Iraqis poured their shells and bullets on them, slaughtering those vile scoundrels. Our brave infantry, artillery, and armored carrier men directed their violent fire at the enemy, who became like prey surrounded by skillful hunters. With God's help, a large number of those scoundrels were annihilated and their bodies were left on the valleys and hills. Few of those scoundrels escaped.

Glory and pride to the brave men of the Muslim ibn 'Aqil Forces—commanders, officers, and men—for this great heroic deterrence. Praise be to the men of the heroic II Army Corps, the owner of the well-known

positions in the fights with the enemies. Similar and more severe outcomes will be the inevitable fate of the enemy's stupid adventures. O Iranian rulers, prattle and empty statements will never achieve victory. They also will not save you from God's wrath and Iraq's violence. Praise be to God for His blessings; He is the best benefactor.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 November 1987

Bushehr Complex Struck Again

JN171652 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1619 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Communique No 2,919 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 17 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our heroic Air Force will continue to hammer the heads of the scoundrel Khomeyniites. They will do so to smash, together with the other brave Armed Forces branches, their empty conceit, to destroy their arrogance, and to bury their schemes beneath the debris of the means and pillars of aggression.

Our brave Air Force carried out a daring mission against the petrochemical industrial complex in Bushehr today. This raid demonstrated the best uses of the Air Force.

After this attack, a large number of our brave Air Force planes launched a new violent raid on the same complex at 1600 [1300 GMT] today to destroy selected targets there. In this heroic raid, our hawks challenged the same enemy air defenses. En route to the target, our hawks destroyed a radar station and a surface-to-air Hawk battery.

After skillfully carrying out their mission, our hawks returned with their planes safely and victoriously to the homeland in God's care and protection. Blessed be our brave, strong Air Force men and their good efforts which achieve victory over our enemies.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 November 1987

Communique No 2,920

JN171745 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1710 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Communique No 2,920 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 17 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces, the owners of good deeds and continuous victories, continued with high morale their combat missions last night and today. They inflicted on the renegade enemies more losses as follows:

1. To challenge the enemy's air defenses, at 1426 [1126 GMT] today our heroic Air Force launched a destructive raid on a surface-to-air Hawk battery on Khark Island. Our Air Force carried out 105 combat missions to perform the duty mentioned in Communique No 2,917, issued this afternoon, and to perform duties in the areas of operations. All our planes then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. In the I Army Corps northern sector, four scoundrels were killed and two infantry positions and one mortar were destroyed.

3. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, four enemy personnel were killed, one vehicle was destroyed, another was damaged, one machinegun emplacement was destroyed and its crew killed, and one ammunition dump was blown up.

4. In the V Army Corps northern sector, 20 enemy personnel were killed and 8 infantry positions and 1 observation post were destroyed.

5. In the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris, four infantry positions and one vehicle were destroyed. In the VII Army Corps sector, one shovel was destroyed.

6. The criminal enemy shelled the towns of Sayyid Sadiq and Sirwan with long-range artillery last night and today. As a result, three civilians, including one woman, were martyred, five other civilians were wounded, and several houses were damaged. Paradise to our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 November 1987

Spokesman Denies Plane Downed

JN171757 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1743 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Nov (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman tonight denied Iranian claims about downing an Iraqi plane over the Arabian Gulf today. In a statement to INA, the Iraqi spokesman said these Iranian claims are nothing more than lies. He said they are accustomed to telling these lies whenever a devastating blow is dealt them in a desperate attempt to whitewash their dark faces.

The Iraqi spokesman challenged the Iranian side to present a single piece of evidence to prove the validity of its claims. The spokesman affirmed that all the Iraqi planes which carried out their duties returned safely to base.

'Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN172000 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1845 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Statement by military spokesman dated 17 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Today is the day of our heroic Air Force's victories. Our Air Force pledges allegiance to the leader of the people and promises to love the homeland and to adhere to freedom and struggle for the sake of the decisive victory, God willing.

After what they did to our country's enemies today, at 1930 [1630 GMT] our hawks dealt an accurate and effective blow to a large maritime target near the Iranian coast. The hawks then returned with their planes safely and victoriously to the homeland in God's care.

[Dated] 17 November 1987

Peres Views Jordanian Minister's Statement

TA180848 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0600 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Telephone interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by Yitzhaq Ro'e and Ilana Dayan—live]

[Text] [Ro'e] Good morning, Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Ro'e] Jordanian Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awda last night disclosed that there is a new U.S. initiative to convoke a peace conference with the participation of Israeli, Jordanian, and Syrian heads of state and under the chairmanship of the U.S. and Soviet leaders. The announcement on this initiative was to have been made during the 7 December summit meeting, with Al-Asad, Husayn, and Shamir scheduled to arrive in Washington the very next day for the opening of the minisummit. According to the Jordanian minister, who is currently visiting the United States, this is the plan George Shultz presented to Yitzhaq Shamir and you. Is this true?

[Peres] I think it would be best to ask Mr Shultz. I am not in a position to provide you with any answer whatsoever.

[Ro'e] Does that mean that you have never heard about such an initiative?

[Peres, laughing] No, I answered your question and I suggest that you not embellish my words.

[Dayan] At any rate, can we gather from the Jordanian minister's remarks that Shultz is merely aiming at obtaining Shamir-style direct talks under the auspices of the two major superpowers?

[Peres] I would say that if this is the case, then he is aiming at such a framework but with an international opening. This is his intention.

[Dayan] But if he is only talking about the aegis of the two superpowers, this is somewhat different from King Husayn's formula.

[Peres] I do not think this is the argument. After all, the main problem is the Soviet Union and its participation in the opening of the negotiations. The two superpowers are supposed to attend the Geneva conference, but just as you have two superpowers participating, you can also have five. The difference is not all that great.

[Ro'e] That is true, but Jordan has refused to accept such a formula and this is actually the main problem.

[Peres] This is a different story altogether. Personally I see no great difference between having two or five superpowers participating in the conference. I do, however, see a difference with regard to the conference's role. The main thing is that the conference would be devoid of powers to decide things or force anything upon the participants and that it would be impossible for the superpowers to intervene in the actual negotiations. Based, among other things, on a message I received yesterday, I have grounds to believe that Egypt and Jordan have both endorsed this position. But people in Israel are trying to instill undue fear.

[Ro'e] Could you be a little more specific about this message?

[Peres] I have nothing to add. I am telling you that Egypt shares this view.

[Dayan] Are you referring to your meeting with former Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil?

[Peres] Among other things, but not only.

[Ro'e] The inference from your remarks is that the only obstacle to the establishment of such a framework is actually the Likud's stubborn opposition to it.

[Peres] Whose opposition?

[Ro'e] The Likud—Shamir and his men.

[Peres] I never said that. I will say that there are certainly still problems with the Soviet Union, although the Soviet position has become much more flexible. I will add, furthermore, that the Amman summit resolutions were interesting, because whereas at the Fes summit it was decided to take all the measures to resolve the conflict, including nonpolitical or military means, here it was said that the only way to resolve the conflict is through an international conference and peace talks.

[Dayan] Yesterday you proclaimed publicly that the United States would be prepared to extend economic aid to Israel if we accept this international conference. Is there really such a deal involving money for a conference?

[Peres] You have to be lucky in everything. What I said yesterday is that we should take advantage of the fact that the incumbent administration has been so friendly toward Israel—and not by trying to seduce us—that we can sign two memoranda of understanding with it, one concerning the nature of the conference. Here the United States was prepared to undertake openly that the conference would not have the power to coerce or interfere in the proceedings. A similar memorandum was signed 15 years ago with the United States regarding the PLO, and it is still valid.

As for the second memorandum, I know of a nucleus of administration officials who were prepared to take measures to guarantee continued military and economic aid to Israel if such a development occurs, although no such formula has been found yet. But all this would have come within the framework of a grand opening to negotiations. I am not saying that the United States came up with this offer, although I do know that it is prepared to comply with it.

[Ro'e] Former Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil, who is currently visiting Israel, cited the late President al-Sadat yesterday as saying that he preferred to conduct negotiations with Menahem Begin, who took a hard line, than with a person who advocates a flexible stand but who may not be able to live up to the agreements. Does this apply to future negotiations, which the Arabs would prefer to conduct with the strong ones—those people in the Likud who take a firm line?

[Peres] The question is whether the hardliners are prepared to engage in negotiations. As you will recall, even at Camp David the Likud was not only tough, but actually quite stubborn, strong-minded, and some of its members even opposed the process. This renders Mustafa Khalil's remarks meaningless.

[Dayan] Mr Peres, allow me to ask you about the congressional report on the Iran affair, which is about to be published today. I understand that you have already seen parts of it. Have we any cause for concern?

[Peres] I do not think so. Look, I am familiar with all the ins and outs of the affair. I know what Israel's motives were, and no report—whether composed by a majority or a minority—can cover up the facts, which were that Israel acted as a friend. The minority can argue that this friend's advice was too rash. Fine. But no one can say that we meant to do anything other than help the United States free the hostages. This lay at the roots of the campaign.

[Ro'e] Let me ask you about the current U.S. suspicions: for example, the ongoing charges that we are still supplying arms to Iran, despite our denials.

[Peres] I believe Israel has explained this matter very clearly; namely, that even beyond this report, it is against Israel's policy to supply weapons to Khomeyni's regime. Israel has been faithful to this principle.

[Ro'e] Mr Peres, today you depart for Europe for a few days, correct?

[Peres] Yes.

[Ro'e] We know that you will visit London early next week.

[Peres] That, too, is correct.

[Ro'e] Is this not the usual venue for your meetings with Husayn?

[Peres] Husayn is not always in London concurrently with my visits there.

[Dayan] Nevertheless, that exotic castle just out of town is very attractive.

[Peres] Do I detect a note of envy in your remark? There is really no justification for it.

[Dayan] Given a microphone, I would always be happy to go there.

[Peres] OK.

[Dayan] Thank you very much, Mr Vice Prime Minister.

[Peres] All the best.

Shamir: No Knowledge of Summit

TA180722 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0600 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Report from Jerusalem by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel]

[Text] By and large, what 'Adnan Abu 'Awda said at a forum in Georgia marking the 10th anniversary of Anwar al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem is correct. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz came to the Middle East with a proposal that the Reagan-Gorbachev summit be exploited for the convening of a so-called 1-day mini-summit.

According to this proposal, the two leaders would summon the two sides to Washington in the course of the summit. This does not necessarily mean that the candidates for that meeting would be Shamir, Husayn, and Al-Asad, but that official delegations—Israeli, Jordanian-Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese—would participate in the minisummit. During the 1-day international opening, the parties would call for direct talks between the Israeli delegation and the other delegations. This would complete the superpowers' role in the contacts, at least in theory. By this we mean primarily that the role of the Soviet Union would end in that minisummit.

During his visit to Jerusalem, Shultz presented this dramatic program, and Vice Prime Minister Peres adopted it. Prime Minister Shamir also accepted it, but added a list of demands from the Soviet Union in return for its participation in the move, focusing on the demand that Soviet Jews be allowed to leave and that the Soviet Union establish full diplomatic ties with Israel.

Shultz left Israel for London, where he met with a negative reaction to his proposal from King Husayn, who was facing the opening of the Arab summit in

Amman and was consequently under constraints. Husayn insisted that the five superpowers participate in an international Middle East peace conference.

Shultz then proceeded to Moscow, but had no time to discuss the Middle East issue. Reagan and Gorbachev will meet in a few weeks and may very possibly also discuss Middle East issues. It is currently evident that this proposal of Shultz' is not about to be implemented soon.

These were the specifics of the proposal.

Last night, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir left for the United States under what we should point out are completely different circumstances. At Ben-Gurion Airport's VIP lounge just before his departure, Shamir was asked to comment on 'Adnan Abu 'Awda's remarks, and said the following:

[Begin Shamir recording] No, I have not heard about this declaration and I must say that it appears to me somewhat odd. [end recording]

I only saw parts of the congressional report on Irangate, and they are not particularly interesting, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said last night at a news conference prior to his departure on a 6-day tour of the United States. Shamir is scheduled to meet with President Reagan, Secretary of State George Shultz, and other administration members.

Shamir was asked about Shim'on Peres' remark on an agreement with the United States on an international conference, and replied:

[Begin Shamir recording in English] I don't know about any agreement. We have never concluded such an agreement with the United States. [end recording]

[Frankel translates the above and continues] Any suggestion for such an agreement must have come from Mr Peres.

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of President al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, Shamir suggested the following:

[Begin Shamir recording in English] I proposed to Dr Mustafa Khalil to organize a meeting between a few Israeli and Egyptian ministers. [end recording]

[Frankel translates the above and continues] I suggested to Dr Khalil that a meeting be held between several Israeli and Egyptian ministers to review the Camp David accords, analyze the reasons for the delay in the negotiations, and search for ways to resume them, Shamir said. The Camp David accord is the most realistic solution, Shamir added.

In anticipation of the upcoming Reagan-Gorbachev summit early next month, Shamir will make the issue of Soviet Jews the focal point of his visit to the United States.

CP's Wilner Meets 'Arafat in Moscow 5 Nov

JN180856 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Israeli Communist Party Secretary General Meir Wilner said in Tel Aviv yesterday that an Israeli Communist Party delegation led by him met with a PLO delegation led by Yasir 'Arafat in Moscow on 5 November. Wilner also revealed that during the meeting they had drafted a joint communique that calls for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the territory occupied in 1967 and for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

According to Wilner, it was agreed not to publish the joint communique until it is ratified by the leaderships.

The communique emphasizes the need to expedite the convening of an international peace conference under UN auspices and with the participation of the five big powers, the Arab states concerned with the conflict, Israel, and the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Me'ir Wilner says the Palestinian delegation led by Yasir 'Arafat included Abu 'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri] for the PFLP, Salih Ra'fat for the DFLP, Sulayman al-Najjab for the Palestinian Communist Party, and Mahmud Darwish, a well-known Palestinian writer and PLO Executive Committee member.

Commentary Views Gulf War Policy Differences

TA171207 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Nov 87 p 13

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "Playing with Fire"]

[Text] "This is all we need—that an Israeli-made Gabriel missile should hit a U.S. warship in the Persian Gulf." This was the spontaneous reaction of IDF Radio commentator Mikha Friedman when he reported on Sunday on the U.S. Administration's protest that Israel is continuing to supply arms to Iran. A gut response, one could say. The very thought that such a thing could happen is enough to raise goose bumps. That really is all we need!

But is it a nightmare or could something like that happen? It is certainly not impossible. Israel's official position is that it has stopped selling military equipment to Iran. And we have no reason, officially at least, to doubt the official denials by the state's leaders and spokesmen. After all, what do we think they are? Liars? The trouble is that had Israel not searched for various markets for the products of its defense industry, between

10,000 and 15,000 workers would have found themselves unemployed. Under these circumstances, who can guarantee that among the equipment that 41 arms-selling countries are sending to Iran, no Israeli-made weapons have snuck in?

In fact, Israeli weapons may very well be found in Iran (and Weinberger claims that such weapons have already been found there) not only because the preservation of the defense industries has become a substantial factor in determining Israeli policy, but also because the "Iranian orientation" is unofficially endorsed by the country's leading troika. There seems to be an ideological basis for deeds and misdeeds alike.

Appearing before foreign correspondents on 19 October, and again this week in the Cabinet, Yitzhaq Rabin emphasized the temporary nature of the hostile relations between Israel and Iran. It is true that Iran is currently Israel's bitter enemy, he said, but we must not forget that for 28 of Israel's 39 years the two countries maintained friendly relations. The current regime in Iran may change, and there is no reason why the day should not come when relations between Israel and Iran should not go back to what they were. After all, was it not this thought that stood behind our involvement in Irangate? Rabin does not conceal the fact that the Iran-Iraq war has served Israel:

a) by keeping the Iraqi Army tied down on another front, and thus preventing Syria from obtaining the backing and aid it requires to launch a war against Israel on its own;
b) by breaking up the pro-Soviet axis in the area;
c) by diverting the Arab world's attention from the Israeli-Arab dispute;
d) by keeping Iraq dependent on aid from the Arab world and Jordan's supply channel, and consequently allowing Husayn to amuse himself with peace initiatives.

But this war will not go on forever and our leaders are considering the future. What is concealed behind the "Iranian orientation" and the nostalgia for relations with a Muslim country that permitted Israel to make billions is a profound concern over the possibility that Iraq will represent a serious danger to Israel's security when the war in the Gulf comes to an end. When this war ends, Iraq will be the Arab country with the largest and strongest Army (more than 40 divisions). It will be an Army that is rich in combat experience; with a superb and ambitious command elite; with fantastic military equipment (Iraq is the only Arab country that is getting the Mig-29); and is in the process of constructing a 650-km-range missile. The fact that during 7 years of war Iraq has been able to freely use chemical weapons without any yells of protest from the world has turned conventional warheads into very dangerous weapons.

Some go even further and claim that because Iraq has succeeded in holding out for such a long time in the bloody war, with hundreds of thousands of losses, at a cost of more than $100 billion, and has entered into the 8th year of the war without collapsing, this ought to worry Israel very much. Why? Because Israel relies on the security concept of a rapid victory. The core of this concept is to cause a collape by the enemy within a very short time in order to rapidly bring him to a cease-fire. Iraq has demonstrated how to endure the dangers of war for a long period of time. It follows that if freed of the war with Iran, what will confront Israel is not just a large and experienced power, but a power with the ability to stand fast.

Security elements are skeptical, if not scornful, of reports on Iraq's "having become more moderate" toward Israel. Moderate signals are mainly aimed at U.S. public opinion which has openly taken up an anti-Iranian position. But we must not forget that each and every day ships carrying military equipment for Iraq are unloading in Aqabah, right under Israel's nose. And Iran undoubtedly has no interest at present in leading Israel to blocking this route. These elements claim that Iraq was—and apparently still is—Israel's sworn and dangerous enemy. These are not views that can be dismissed lightly.

To put things simplistically, we can say that Shamir, Rabin, and Peres relate to Iran in accordance with the saying: "My enemy's enemy is my friend (potentially)." The trouble is that we can add on something to this saying, something not normally written: It has not yet been proved that we are the friend of our enemy's enemy. In contrast, he is the official enemy of our greatest and best friend. That is playing with fire.

It is, indeed, true that not everything that is good for the U.S., for instance, its direct involvement in the Persian Gulf war, is necessarily good for Israel. But it is unreasonable that matters so important and so sensitive, that are connected to so many aspects of security and political concepts, should be issues for press headline duels and not be thoroughly clarified in the Cabinet.

Media Analyzes Outcome of Amman Summit

MA'ARIV 13 Nov Commentary

TA131732 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Nov 87 p B10

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "The 21 Game"]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has praised the Amman summit decision to allow the Arab countries to renew their diplomatic ties with Egypt.

I am not sure that Egypt was really dying for the prime minister's compliments. On the contrary, the signs indicate that Egypt wanted to lower the "profile" of relations with Israel before the process of renewing relations with

the Gulf countries was completed. There is not one Egyptian statesman who will be able to respond to the invitation by those celebrating the "Al-Sadat Decade" in Israel.

The Egyptian diplomats who impatiently anticipated the renewal of relations with Saudi Arabia, were not ready to jeopardize that move for the sake of a luncheon in a Herzliyya hotel, or a lecture in Bet Berl [Labor Party ideological center]. Jacques Chirac, the French prime minister, who visited Cairo, tried to persuade his Jerusalem interlocutors to take into consideration Mubarak's pressures on the eve of the summit and forgive him for the anti-Israeli campaign recently permitted in the Egyptian press.

Egypt has received $200 million in aid from the Gulf states this year and it expects these sums to increase after the renewal of relations. Egyptian officers are scheduled to train the Kuwaiti Army and replace the Palestinians who headed it. Cairo also hopes that the renewal of relations will increase the number of Egyptians working in the Gulf states. In the past the money these workers sent their families in Egypt has represented a considerable part of the country of the Nile's income in foreign currency.

Mubarak does not intend to abrogate the peace treaty with Israel. Such a step would lead him to a political confrontation with the United States, which has looked after the modernization of his Army and is giving him generous financial aid. On the other hand, the success he has reaped in Amman could encourage the Egyptian president to continue the policy of keeping his distance from Israel and of permitting harsh publications against Israel, beyond the short interim period "for the needs of the summit" mentioned by the French prime minister.

In contrast to this, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has avoided praising any of the Amman Summit's resolutions. Instead, he saw fit to note Husayn's great success in reinforcing his status in the Arab world.

In fact, it is to Peres' credit that he can note Husayn's recovery. He contributed toward it with the "London agreement" he achieved with Husayn on 11 April of this year. This agreement was the Jordanian king's springboard in the Arab world and the international arena. After having proved to the Arab leaders that he is capable of turning Israeli opposition to a conference into semiagreement, he also became a "favorite son" in Moscow and Damascus. This was also popular in Cairo, which wanted to use the conference to free itself of the Camp David chains, and in London, where the proposed conference would enable a return to the position of influence London was pushed away from.

In contrast to the usual assumption that Husayn is concealing his meetings with Israeli representatives from Arab leaders, the truth is that he likes to boast to them of his ability to maneuver the Israelis, mislead them and, when necessary, even act as a "mediator." This was the case in 1976 when, at Al-Asad's request, he obtained Israel's agreement to allow the Syrian Army's entry into Lebanon as far as the "red line." His talks with Israeli ministers give him a bargaining card with Arab leaders and he is playing the game with extraordinary wiliness and great skill.

Husayn has emerged stronger, but Peres has come out disappointed. His consolation has been saying that "the conference has neither blocked nor opened doors to peace." Nevertheless, at the next meeting with Husayn, Peres will undoubtedly want to learn how to reconcile the contradiction between the "London agreement," which was supposed to prevent PLO representation, and the Amman proclamation regarding the "PLO's incorporation on an equal status."

In the London agreement Husayn gave the commitment that: "The Palestinian problem will be discussed at the conference in which Jordanian-Palestinian and Israeli delegations will participate," and that "the Palestinians will be included in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation." It was specifically decided in Amman, however, that "The PLO delegation will have an equal status as the sole representative of the Palestinians."

This is a blow to the Husayn-Peres agreement. The Jordanians tried to downplay this blow and struck the sentence about the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian nation from the official English translation of the conference resolutions, the version intended for the foreign correspondents. But Yasir 'Arafat set up an uproar, claiming that what certain Jordanians had not managed to achieve in the conference itself, they were trying to achieve in an international publication.

In the end the king was deterred and made a public announcement that he recognized the "PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinians with the right to a status equal to all the participants in the conference." In this announcement the king actually cut out most of the clauses in the third section, the "most secret" section of the London agreement. He can reassure Peres that he will try to obtain 'Arafat's agreement that the delegation will be a joint one, Jordanian-PLO.

It is doubtful whether Peres will want to buy these goods, despite the distress he is in as a result of his commitment to the international conference path. But there is no doubt that Peres will not be satisfied that the summit's statement against terrorism about "shaking off terrorism and violence" fulfills the requirement of clause 4 of the third section of Husayn's agreement.

This statement about terrorism is one of the summit's great swindles, although not the only one. 'Arafat joined in the resolution against terrorism at a time when, on the eve of his arrival in Amman, he ordered his personnel to commit terrorist attacks in Israel and in Judaea and

Samaria. His terrorist gains were limited, although his personnel reported successes to him. This was also how he behaved when Shultz was visiting Israel.

The Fatah people in London used to report to him that they were shelling the Galilee even when it was absolutely calm in the area. In any event, 'Arafat has a "green light" for terrorism within the summit proclamation. This is included in the section which called for support for the "fight against the Zionist conquerer." The Arab leaders who finance Palestinian terrorism and direct its actions also did not hesitate to condemn terrorism. This is because they define Palestinian terrorism as a "national struggle."

The Syrian, Al-Asad, performed a greater swindle at the summit. The Libyan, Jallud, did not embrace Husayn and he held back from the summit proclamation which he described as a U.S. plot. Not so the Syrian president. Despite his pact with Iran, which supplies him with free oil, he had no reservations about the criticism leveled at its leaders.

For the time being there is no other explanation for his behavior than that based on a report by a Western diplomat. From talks with Soviet officials in Moscow he learned that the Soviet Union has recently renewed the supplies of sophisticated weapons to Syria, and a considerable amount of them are being transferred to Iran. The Syrians are satisfied with the role the Soviets have conferred on them in the Iran-Iraq war. Al-Asad's behavior in Amman may cunningly fit in with the Soviet Union's policy in the Gulf war.

Mubarak's status has been strengthened. The same applies to that of Husayn. 'Arafat has won the Arab states' renewed recognition of his sole right to represent the Palestinians, and Al-Asad has reinforced his bargaining power with Tehran and Moscow. In fact, all four have gained. They hope that following the demonstration of Arab solidarity the Gulf rulers will also open their purses. That is the message that came out of the summit this week.

Amman, however, has also received a signal from Washington that it is not worth it for the Arabs to rush to conduct negotiations with Israel. It would be better to wait patiently, because "time is working against Israel."

It was the delusion that time is working against Israel that prevented the Arabs from making a peace settlement with Israel when Israel was squeezed along the cease-fire lines. It is difficult to conceive who inflated a marginal White House comment until it has appeared as headlines encouraging the Arab rejection of peace, or why. This rejection found its expression in the summit resolution trying to force Israel to hold discussions with the PLO before an international tribunal that is supposed to examine the implementation of all the UN resolutions, including the Palestinian refugees' right to return to their home in Israel.

AL-SHA'B 13 Nov Editorial

TA132011 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Nov 87 pp 1, 8

[Editorial: "Have the Arabs Agreed To Agree?"]

[Text] The summit's meetings ended and its results put an end to the speculations and expectations as well as to the apprehensions aroused during the summit's session. This summit was one of the most important Arab summits in view of the fact that it coincided with growing dangers and challenges in more than one location in the Arab arena.

With the conclusion of the summit and the return of their majesties, highnesses, and excellencies to their countries, numerous questions manifest themselves before the post-summit period, because only the practical translation of the noble resolutions produced by the summit will determine the success or failure of this summit.

The pan-Arab, conciliatory, and solidarity resolutions affirming Palestinian rights, condemning Iranian aggressions, supporting Iraq in repelling agression, and wishing welfare and prosperity for Lebanon, despite being noble and constructive, are no more than a new addition to a series of resolutions and positions expressed by previous Arab summits. Those resolutions, which ignored the developments and changes taking place on Arab land from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arab Gulf, preceded, accompanied, and followed the meetings of the extraordinary summit. These "ordinary" resolutions that emanated from the "extraordinary" summit did not suggest even one practical measure that gives verbal support and credence before the aggressors.

Hence, it is no wonder that Tel Aviv and Tehran's reactions have been coupled with disdain for the causes of the Arab nation while continuing with the same hostile approaches they have pursued. These approaches do not hold Arab will in any esteem. The Arabs had lost control of their affairs and the reins were taken over by their enemies who manipulate them in any way they like.

The resolutions issued by the highest Arab institution were content with being limited to statements of condemnation and denunciation as well as verbal support. The Arabs should not ask others in the world to adopt more pan-Arab resolutions than their own.

The Arabs' method of dealing with international resolutions—whether these resolutions are related to the Palestinian problem or to halting the Iraq-Iran war—is to use them as a topic for making statements and speeches. This method cannot possibly induce international organizations to adopt practical measures to implement those resolutions as long as the Arabs have not advanced even a single step towards these practical measures.

Before asking the international community to adopt decisive positions toward our causes, we should propose something that would induce this community to view our demands and calls with seriousness.

Protection of the Arab nation, defense of Arab national security, and affirmation of conciliation and accord require strong deterrent positions. The required positions extend beyond calls and appeals for effective and practical implementation of resolutions. They are positions which can put the Arab nation on the path of total unity and eliminate the pests of humiliation spread over this great homeland. When these positions have been adopted one can say that the Arabs "have agreed in fact to agree."

PLO Plans To Pressure RAKAH on Arab Forces

TA131611 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 13 Nov 87 p 4

[Report by Shlomo Glazer]

[Text] The PLO is establishing a joint committee drawn from most of the splinter groups that are members of the organization. Its role will be to pressue RAKAH to cooperate with the patriotic Arab forces in Israel.

This report was carried today by the Nazareth weekly *Al-Sinara.* It was written by its correspondent who attended the Arab countries' conference in Amman that ended this week. The correspondent also reports that the committee will contain Muhammad Darwish, Sulayman Najib, and Mahmud 'Abbas, as well as representatives of the PFLP and the DFLP.

The correspondent also reports that contacts have recently begun between a senior PLO element and members of the Progressive List for Peace. These two parties have been at odds with each other for a long time in a struggle for influence over the Arab man in-the-street.

Officials Plan Talks With PLO in Moscow

TA171612 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Nov 87 p 2

[Report by Roni Shaqed and Bina Barzel]

[Text] A group of Israelis has recently been holding negotiations with PLO and Soviet leaders aimed at setting up a dialogue in Moscow on the idea of a tripartite Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian confederation as a way of solving the Middle East dispute. The group members suggested that the Moscow team be headed by 'Ezer Weizman and Moshe 'Amirav.

'Amirav, member of the Herut Central Committee, is a group participant, and took part in the meeting in which it was decided to set up a front composed of all the parties in Israel to support the confederation idea. As will be recalled, following pressure by party colleagues, 'Amirav promised not to maintain contacts with PLO memebers. He is still facing trial before a party tribunal in Tel Aviv over his meetings in the territories with people identified with the PLO.

Others members of the group are: HADASH Knesset Member Charlie Biton; Arye Hes, member of the Labor Party Central Committee; leftist David Ish-Shalom; Dr Gavri'el Moqed; and Mikah'el Maner.

Members of the group met a week ago in a Jerusalem hotel. One of the participants said the meeting between Charlie Biton and Moshe 'Amirav was touching. The two embraced and 'Amirav promised not continue his efforts.

During the meeting, 'Amirav spoke in favor of the need to set up a meeting in Moscow with PLO activists. The group's members asked 'Amirav to recruit additional supporters for the idea in the HERUT movement, but 'Amirav replied that it would be difficult.

Last week 'Amirav and Biton met with Minister 'Ezer Weizman and talked with him about the possibility of holding a dialogue with the PLO in Moscow. They suggested that members of all the Israeli parties participate in the meeting and that Weizman head the Israeli delagation.

The idea for the Moscow meeting came from Arye Hes. Three weeks ago Hes sent a letter to PLO leaders in Europe via a member of RAKAH and suggested holding a meeting in Moscow to discuss the confederation idea. The PLO officials responded favorably and there are now contacts with Soviet representatives through RAKAH.

Moshe 'Amirav, who was asked for his reaction to the report, told *Yedi'ot Aharonot*: "I have often expressed my views in favor of a confederation between Israel and Jordan. Some organizations have asked me for information on my position, and I am giving it to them willingly.

"I was offered an opportunity to join a delegation headed by 'Ezer Weizman to Moscow. My answer was that I would consider it. At this stage it is only an idea. That is why I have no reaction."

'Amirav denied that he met Weizman last week to discuss the idea of meeting with the Palestinians in Moscow.

Our correspondent Bina Barzel has learned that senior Likud members are pressuring 'Amirav to "lower his profile", stop talking to journalists, and present his peace plan to party branch members. 'Amirav was told clearly that if he stops his activities the disciplinary action against him will be dropped.

Leaders of the academics circle in Jerusalem told him yesterday that his lecture, planned 2 weeks ago, was ordered canceled. 'Amirav, who rejects any "deal to keep

silent" in exchange for dropping the charges against him at the party tribunal, announced yesterday that this is a grave issue and he is going to continue to try to win people over to his plan.

"I do not want to be a Knesset member. I do not want any public office. Why should I belong to a movement if I am forbidden to debate my views?", 'Amirav said. The trial against him will be resumed this coming Thursday.

Defense Establishment Severs Ties With Gaza

TA171642 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1430 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] The defense establishment is severing all ties with the Gaza District Regional Council. This was announced today by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. According to Rabin, these ties will only be resumed after the council members apoligize and retract their harsh statements against Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Southern Command.

[Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 17 November adds: "Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron termed the Gaza District settlers' remarks a poor and ungrateful statement. As will be recalled, the settlers announced that they are boycotting the commander of the Southern Command for what they called his actions following the incident in Dayr al-Balah."]

Our Knesset correspondent reports that a senior IDF officer and the defense minister reviewed the development of events in Dayr al-Balah. The two determined that there was absolutely no connection between the death of the girl in Gaza and shots fired by soldiers manning the roadblock.

Our Knesset correspondent Yinon Shenkar has learned that a delegation of Gaza District Regional Council members will meet with Gen Yitzhaq Mordekhay tomorrow in a bid to resolve the dispute. Attempts to mediate between the two sides and settle the conflict continued throughout the afternoon hours and involved National Religious Party Knesset Member Hayim Druckman.

Commentary Analyzes IDF, Defense Cuts

TA161552 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
16 Nov 87 p 9

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "A Shrinking Defense Establishment"]

[Excerpt] The defense establishment is undergoing an interesting shrinkage and reduction, a quiet process being conducted with few public statements. This shrinkage is the first stage in a reorganization that has not been publicly announced. If it is carried out well with a view to future needs it may lead to an important turn. This process began in Yitzhaq Rabin's term as defense minister. After the withdrawal from Lebanon he freed himself for the delicate analysis the defense establishment is now undergoing. And if it succeeds, most of the credit should go to Rabin.

Above all else the shrinkage has hit all branches of the defense industries. As early as in his first term as defense minister Rabin felt that this was a body that was outgrowing its creator; a defense power on its own with its own interests which could sometimes conflict with those of the IDF, or the defense establishment as a whole, and even of Israel; a giant body whose maintenance sometimes required moves to be taken that may well not have been made in another situation. It was the intention to cut back this industrial giant to normal dimensions, to obtain genuine control over it, to prevent it from undergoing such shocks in the future as those undergone by Sultam after the exports of arms to Iran were stopped.

Without any connection with the decision to end the Lavi project, the defense industry and its branches embarked on large reductions. According to Defense Ministry calculations the number of people employed on 1 April 1987 by defense industries in Israel amounted to more than 58,000 people. Four months later, on 1 August, 7,280 workers were dismissed from all of this industry's plants, a reduction of some 12 percent. This, as stated, does not include the dismissals expected from the elimination of the Lavi project or even from the cuts in the IDF. The dismissals reach higher percentages in some of the plants. In the military industries, for instance, over these 4 months 19 percent of the workers were dismissed. This includes 14 percent from El Op and 9 percent from RAFAEL [Armament Development Authority]. In such secondary plants as Ordan, 40 percent; the highest figure was in Sultam, 72 percent.

Other than the reductions that have not yet come to an end, an important change has been registered in the defense industry. To enable increased exports it was decided to make public those tools and equipment that in the past were considered to be highly classified. The special committee that deals with the release of secret technologies lifted the tenacious secrecy from a series of weapons. This made it possible to break into new markets in Europe and, at the same time, to sell more products to the U.S. market. The Defense Ministry began making the various plants cooperate more among themselves. In the past the competition among them for quite a small market reached absurdities that caused disappointments and losses.

The cuts in the IDF occupy second place. The military ranks have also shrunk, something that had not happened for many years. Thousands of regular officers and thousands of civilian workers have been dismissed or forced to leave the IDF. There is no doubt that these cuts have also damaged the IDF's muscles, but much excess fat and duplications that also existed on the combat levels have been eliminated. Had it been a normal

civilian body we certainly would have been hearing many voices raised in protest, and even seen strikes, because of dismissals in the IDF. This is also a risky move and only the defense minister, who is a senior military man, could have permitted himself to take such a risk.

It is not yet possible to know whether future cuts to the IDF will take on the nature of a badly needed reform of the power structure and General Staff. This depends on decisions, some no less painful than that on the elimination of the Lavi project, scheduled to be made over the next few months by the General Staff and defense minister. [passage omitted]

IDF Acquiring Sophisticated Anti-CBW Gear

TA151933 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 15 Nov 87 p 2

[Report by military correspondent Avi Bnayahu]

[Excerpt] The IDF General Staff recently approved a plan for the acquisition of the world's most sophisticated means of detecting and identifying chemical warfare agents. These means, most of which have been developed and manufactured exclusively in Israel, are designed to meet a wide variety of needs, from the individual soldier and crew up to the unit level.

Colonel A., commander of the IDF's Chemical Warfare Center, said in an interview with *'Al Hamishmar* that now that countries have solved the problem of protecting themselves against chemical warfare, more emphasis is placed on detection and identification, which are supposed to provide a warning early enough to begin preparations. "The question is how long the protection, which includes a mask and special clothing, will last. It is also feared that prolonged wear might lower the level of performance of the fighter in the battlefield. It is therefore necessary to be informed about the duration of the protection," Col A. said.

To this end, Israel has developed an automatic detector of materials used in chemical warfare. The detector, which has unique features, was developed by Elbit according to the IDF's specifications. The automatic equipment can work in bases and permanent installations as well as in the open battlefield. This is the best gear of its kind in the world, providing data about the area afflicted by chemicals and describing the chemical in question. It has been learned that several countries have demonstrated interest in purchasing the detector.

The "gas knob" is an exclusive Israeli patent that has been developed by the defense establishment. The knob is attached to the filter in the respirator. By changing color it advises whether the area is afflicted by warfare chemicals. The defense establishment is currently looking for a firm that will manufacture the "gas knobs" for the entire Army. The level of precision of this equipment makes it possible to distinguish between ordinary toxic gases in the air and chemicals used in warfare.

The IDF has also been purchasing U.S.-made detection and identification paper which is supplied to crews. The paper may be attached to the soldier's body, cars, tanks, or any other vehicles. In the presence of chemical warfare agents, red spots will appear on the paper indicating the need to wear protection. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Air Power Effectiveness Assessed

TA151811 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Nov 87

[Report by Gay Bekhor]

[Text] Do the terrorist organizations, or more specifically the PLO, have an air power that can strike Israeli targets? The answer to this question is yes and no. The PLO has air power that includes Fokker-27 cargo aircraft as well as Bell-206 helicopters, but it does not possess combat aircraft. It also lacks the capability to manufacture such aircraft on its own. The PLO has a few aircraft only, and they are obsolete. It does not have a territory and therefore cannot purchase a lot of aircraft for the simple reason that there is nowhere to store them. At any rate, in the YAR, where most of the aircraft are kept in hangars, the infrastructure is so underdeveloped that the PLO's aircraft are used only for training and not for their original purpose, transferring cargo.

It is interesting to note that the air force personnel are all Palestinians. There are no foreigners even as advisers. The air force numbers several hundred men, including apporoximately 100 pilots, aircraft technicians, and administrative personnel.

Western correspondents who visited the YAR camp report that the quality of the Palestinian pilots is poor because many of them have not logged flight hours in the past 10 years. If the personnel undergo any training at all, it is done in foreign armed services such as those of Libya or Pakistan, whose Air Forces are also deficient.

The PLO trains its pilots in three methods: civilian flight courses for light aircraft held primarily in Europe and Canada, where it is both easy and inexpensive to enter a flight school; courses in which light aircraft pilots are retrained on heavier aircraft; and in extremist countries such as Libya, South Yemen, and Pakistan, where the PLO has managed to introduce its personnel into combat flight courses.

The pilots train and use the infrastructure of those countries, but they don PLO uniforms. Their salaries and ranks are determined by Fatah's air unit.

In an interview he granted to the press a few years ago, Ahmad Jibril reported that members of his organization were trained in flying Mig-23's, but this report has not

been corroborated by any other source. As we said before, the [Palestinian] organizations' aircraft are incapable of launching an air strike against Israel, but it is interesting to note that they have already made several attempts to penetrate Israeli airspace. This was when members of Abu al-'Abbas' [Muhammad 'Abbas] organization tried to overfly Israel in the summer of 1981 using motorized gliders and a hot air baloon. These attempts failed.

Correction to Deportation of Islamic Leader

This correction pertains to the item headlined "Islamic Jihad Leader Issued Deportation Order," published in the 17 November Near East & South Asia *Daily Report* on page 33, first column:

First paragraph, only sentence, and throughout the item, the Islamic leader's name should read "'Awda" instead of "'Udda," correcting spelling of name.

Abu 'Awdah Cited on Shultz Summit Proposals

JN181007 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
0500 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Huda Tawfiq dispatch]

[Text] Jordanian Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah has disclosed facts about the U.S. proposal rejected by King Husayn in London. He said that Shultz suggested to King Husayn that the U.S.-Soviet summit scheduled to be held in Washington on 7 December 1987 extend invitations to the leaders of Syria, Jordan, and Israel to go to Washington and to meet together within the framework of the U.S.-Soviet summit and during one of its later sessions. Such a meeting would be the beginning of a diplomatic initiative to activate the peace process. The process would be later completed through the United Nations and within the framework of bilateral talks among the parties concerned.

Abu 'Awdah added that King Husayn had rejected the proposal because a meeting of the parties concerned for 1 or 2 hours within the framework of the U.S.-Soviet framework does not constitute the international conference the Arabs want and in whose framework they want negotiations to be held.

Abu 'Awdah said that Jordan appeals to the U.S.-Soviet summit to issue a statement that refers positively to the international conference, as that could influence the rejectionist Israeli stand.

Abu 'Awdah made these remarks during a Middle East seminar opened by former President Jimmy Carter in support of convening an international conference. Syria, Jordan, Egypt, the PLO, and representatives of the five big powers and the United Nations are participating in the seminar, which is being held in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Jordanian court minister asserted that Palestinian representation at an international conference is an Arab issue resolved through agreement among Jordan, Syria, and the PLO. He added that Palestinian representation must not pose a problem at present, for efforts must first be concentrated on convening an international conference.

Soviet Friendship Delegation Arrives in Amman

JN172051 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Amman—A Soviet friendship delegation under Pavel Volkov, minister of motor transportation in the Ukrainian SSR and member of the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, arrived in Amman today on a 1-week visit to Jordan.

During the visit, the delegation will participate in the Soviet friendship days in the Kingdom. The days, which have been organized by the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society, include a number of activities. They will begin as of this evening and will continue until 24 November. The Soviet friendship delegation will meet with a number of senior officials. It will also visit tourist and cultural sites in the Kingdom and acquaint itself with Jordan's progress in all spheres. The delegation comprises 22 men of science and culture in the Soviet Union.

PSP Criticizes Summit Action on Egypt

NC172044 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Excerpts] The PSP Political Bureau met under the chairmanship of Walid Junblatt today and discussed various local and regional developments, particularly those connected with the results of the Arab summit held in Amman. The Bureau issued the following statement:

The PSP Political Bureau has reviewed the results of the Arab summit conference and noted a retrogression in the pan-Arab position. Extensive and serious steps have also been made to draw closer to the U.S.-Israeli conditions for rearranging the political map of the region. The decision to end the Egyptian regime's isolation and the flagrant disregard of the hazards posed by the U.S. imperialist and Western onslaught in the Gulf constitute an Arab 17 May [reference to abrogated Israeli-Lebanese accord signed on 17 May 1983].

The first results of the Arab summit have taken the form of an accelerated rush to join the Camp David axis; namely, the Egyptian regime. This rush signifies an endorsement of the Camp David policy and a growing deviation from the issue of Jewish immigration to Palestine, which poses a danger to the future of the pan-Arab cause.

To speak of a summit of reconciliation and accord and Arab solidarity no longer has any meaning except that of accepting a general Arab situation chiefly characterized by a subservience to imperialist influence. This influence also controls Arab political tendencies.

The PSP Political Bureau statement adds: The required Arab solidarity must be a solidarity for a minimum of confrontation of imperialist pressures.

As for Lebanon, which did not enjoy the distinction of having its case placed as a priority item on the summit's agenda, it is being subjected to further U.S. and Israeli pressures in this climate of Arab retrogression. The pro-Zionist, isolationist, and sectarian forces continue to cling to the scheme designed to link Lebanon with the Camp David bloc and the U.S.-Israeli plan.

This Arab situation casts its shadow on the Lebanese scene, adding new burdens and numerous complexities to national action. In view of this, the nationalist struggle and the organization of relations among the nationalist forces must rise to the level of the required tasks to confront the role of the reactionary forces and their attempts to exploit the social crisis in a bid to weaken national steadfastness. [passage omitted]

The Political Bureau also believes that numerous challenges confront the forces of nationalist action, particularly the Unification and Liberation Front, which is the basic framework for the leadership of nationalist action at this stage. In view of this, our party reiterates its call to devote national dialogue to the formulation of a unified plan of action which will mobilize all capabilities and energies to fortify ourselves against the winds of Arab reaction.

Iranian Ambassador Comments on Amman Summit

NC171421 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] In a statement after his meeting with acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss today, the Iranian ambassador in Beirut said: We assessed the outcome of the summit in Amman. It is regrettable that the conference failed to deal with the situation in Lebanon.

When asked about the present relations between Iran and Syria in the wake of the Amman summit, the Iranian ambassador stated: Our relations with the Syrian brothers are strategic and are based on complete friendship.

In response to a question on whether the Amman resolutions would affect the course of the war, the ambassador said: We attach no importance to the Amman summit resolutions. As you know, upon the directives of Imam Khomeyni, a general mobilization had been declared to settle the war in our favor.

The Iranian ambassador said the clashes that broke out in Sidon yesterday are very regrettable. He added: We believe that all guns should be directed against the Israeli enemy. My talks with the acting prime minister focused on the situation in Sidon. However, the situation is now calm, praise be to God. We also discussed the painful economic situation and suitable ways of resolving this situation.

Anishchev-Led Delegation Concludes Visit

NC181221 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] A Soviet delegation led by CPSU Central Committee member Vladimir Anishchev, which includes the official in charge of the Lebanon and Palestine section of the International Relations Department, left Beirut for home at noon today. During their 1-week visit, the members of the delegation took part in celebrations marking the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution. They also met with several official and key nationalist figures, stressing their country's support for the struggle of the Lebanese people to rid Lebanon of the Israeli occupation and to achieve independence and progress. Ambassador Kolotusha, Soviet envoy to Lebanon; Soviet Embassy staff; and a number of leading personnel from the PSP and the Lebanese Communist Party saw the delegation members off at the airport.

Maronite Patriarch Discusses Overseas Tour

NC171802 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Excerpts] Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr has disclosed that Pope John Paul II had stressed to him that he will spare no opportunity to help solve the Lebanese problem. The patriarch added that the countries he visited had promised to exert every available effort to save Lebanon from its tribulation. [passage omitted]

Patriarch Sfayr noted his willingness to visit Damascus if we are certain that such a visit will be useful and will help reduce the Lebanese people's sufferings. [passage omitted]

This came in a statement made by Patriarch Sfayr following his return to Lebanon this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Sa'd on Sidon Incidents, Palestinian Presence

NC171817 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Palestinians are said to be massing their forces on the approaches to Sidon and in the Al-Mihaniyah area. Eng Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization, has told the Voice of Lebanon that it has been agreed that Palestinian fighters will return to their camps. He said that the Palestinian presence in the south should not be allowed to revert to its pre-1982 state. Sa'd also welcomed the prospect of a Syrian deployment between Al-Naqurah and Al-Nahr al-Kabir. The Nasirite Popular Organization leader said:

[Begin recording] [Sa'd] Our position is very clear. It is our belief that certain suspect elements within Palestinian and Lebanese groups are trying to stir up trouble. Despite that, we consider the Palestinian people a trust in our hands. However, the Palestinians should, for their part, act in harmony with the Lebanese patriots.

We cannot permit the situation to revert to the state of affairs that existed prior to 1982, with all its known drawbacks. Similarly, we do not want the Palestinians to be forced to live under the conditions that existed prior to 1969. This is our unyielding position.

For a long time now we have made clear our support for a Syrian deployment from Al-Naqurah to Al-Nahr al-Kabir so that they may lend us a hand in confronting Israel on the Kafr Falus front.

[Unidentified announcer] Has there been an agreement stipulating that the Palestinians should return to their camps and not take any positions outside it.

[Sa'd] Sure. Sure.

[Announcer] How would you describe the situation in Sidon now?

[Sa'd] Quiet. [end recording]

Lebanese Forces Detain 2 in Amal Bomb Attempt

NC171742 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Statement made by Lebanese Forces 'security source' on 17 November]

[Text] A white Mercedes-200 automobile, which was stopped by the Lebanese Forces personnel manning the Monte Verdi checkpoint, was found rigged with 12 kg of dynamite. Two persons were inside the car: Husayn Bahij Ahmad from Al-Ghubayrah and Husayn Ahmad al-Rummayti from Al-Mujadil near Tyre. The explosives were hidden underneath the automobile's dashboard.

The two men gave detailed confessions on the operation for which the car bomb was intended. According to their testimony, Amal's security official, Mustafa al-Dirani, was directing the operation. The initial investigation showed that the two men were planning to deliver the car to certain people living in East Beirut.

Warrant for Woman Linked to Airport Blast

NC171625 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] In connection with the Beirut airport bombing, the military investigator has issued an arrest warrant for Lilian Na'im 'Id on charges of holding back evidence. It has been reported that Lilian 'Id was seen frequently in the company of Thurayya Sahyun, the woman who was carrying the bomb which caused the blast.

Group Attacks Israeli Position; Casualties

NC171724 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] In a statement today, the Forces of the Deprived said that one of its groups used rockets and machineguns to attack the Rumaysh position, which is jointly manned by Israeli personnel and their agents, early today. A 15-minute clash ensued shortly thereafter between the group and the position's personnel. Well over five of the personnel manning the position were either killed or wounded and two jeeps and an observation post were destroyed as a result of the attack.

The Forces of the Deprived added that another group fired rockets at an artillery emplacement in the Bilat area and scored direct hits.

Al-Shar' Briefs Cabinet on Summit Resolutions

JN172008 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] The Cabinet met under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at 1100 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' presented to the Cabinet a report on the outcome of the extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman. He explained the Arab and international climate and the circumstances in which the conference was convened, adding that attempts by the United States to influence the conference and to manipulate the Arab nation into a new regional conflict had intended to drastically alter the balance of forces in Israel's favor and promote its expansionist goals.

Al-Shar' stressed that the participation of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, with his renowned wisdom, courage, and strategic vision, played a significant part in calming the tense atmosphere and correcting the course of the conference to serve the goals and fateful issues of the Arab nation. The minister also explained the content of the resolutions issued by the extraordinary Arab summit. He noted the positive nature of the resolutions and Syria's abidance by them in light of the deliberations of the Syrian Arab delegation during the proceedings of the summit.

Al-Shar' emphasized that the Arab solidarity, which had crystallized at the summit, must primarily be directed toward liberating the occupied land and recovering usurped rights from the Zionist enemy.

The Council of Ministers then proceeded to review the activity of the economic, cultural, and services committees. The Cabinet also studied the outcome of the higher committee of the Euphrates project and its resolutions. The Council of Ministers then discussed pending draft resolutions and made the appropriate decisions.

Al-Ahmar Receives Lebanon's Nabih Birri

JN181336 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1135 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Damascus, 18 Nov (SANA)—Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, this morning received Nabih Birri, Lebanon's Amal Movement leader.

Talks dealt with developments in the Lebanese arena in particular, developments in the Arab arena in general, and issues of mutual interest.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Speaks to Air Force, Defense Forces

LD171029 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 16 Nov 87

[Excerpts] Comrade Najibullah, general secretary ofthe PDPA Central Committee, president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, and Supreme commander of the Armed Forces, attended a glorious meeting held by Air Forces and Air Defense personnel at their headquarters this afternoon.

According to a BIA military correspondent's report, Comrade Najibullah arrived around 1600 at the headquarters accompanied by Comrade Major General Muhammad Rafi', member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and DRA defense minister. After inspecting the honor guard, Comrade Najibullah was welcomed by Brigadier General Zabihollah Ziarmal, head of Army political affairs; Lieutenant General Abdul Qader, commander of the Air Forces and Air Defense Forces; and the leadership of those forces.

Comrade Najibullah then attended the glorious meeting of the commanders, political workers, pilots, and engineers of the Air Forces and Air Defense Forces.

In the beginning, the DRA national anthem was played. The head of Army political affairs then delivered a short speech on the party and revolutionary state's attention to Army personnel, and in particular to the Air Force and Air Defense Forces, to promote the combat capability and living conditions of personnel. He then asked Comrade Najibullah to deliver a speech and detail the duties and responsibilities of the participants of the session.

Comrade Najibullah delivered his instructive speech amid applause and enthusiasm by the participants and spoke in detail about the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, the participation of the DRA party and state delegation in this celebration, and the report by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, as well as the results of the work of the high-ranking party and state delegation during its stay in Moscow.

After specifying the responsibilities and duties of Army personnel, and particularly the Air Force and Air Defense Forces, toward the implementation of national reconciliation and the defense of the homeland and the revolution, he said:

During the days that we stayed in Moscow, official and unofficial meetings, both short and long, took place with the leaders of the many parties. The most important of them was our meeting with M.S. Gorbachev. During this friendly and fraternal meeting, there was an informational part too, in which mostly constructive issues and problems of the near future were discussed. Our meetings with Comrades Shevardnadze, Chebrikov, Talyzin, and Yazov took place in a spirit of deepening, consolidating, and continuing contacts. We also met with Comrade Fidel Castro.

First of all, how can we assess the results of our delegation's visit to Moscow and its participation in the glorious meeting on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution? All the leading party cadres and the vast masses of party members should deeply study the speech by Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, which was delivered at the festive meeting on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of Great October and his speech at the meeting of the party delegations and organizations in Moscow. I want to stress that these documents are an outstanding contribution to enriching and developing creatively the scientific revolutionary theory, and contain a bold new approach toward resolving the burning problems of today's world, which worry all the peoples of the world.

It is necessary for us, the Afghan members of the PDPA, to learn the methodology of these documents and to study political realism, in order to gain an understanding of diverse historical experiences and skills, to learn political lessons from it, and to stabilize future tasks.

Comrade Najibullah added: We, the representatives of the Afghan people, felt the deep respect and love of the Soviet people toward us everywhere. We felt once again in Moscow the great attention that international society pays toward Afghanistan and toward resolving the situation in and around the country.

We can say without exaggeration that the warm welcome given to the speech by the head of the Afghan delegation and the approval of our national reconciliation policy, which was discussed in most of the participants' speeches, is proof of this fact. The whole world is seriously watching the situation in our country. We should interpret this as a great responsibility.

Therefore, we should use all our efforts so that each day can bring objective results with regard to implementing the decisions of the nationwide conference. We should assess objectively the question of what kind of work we have carried out in connection with the implementation of the conference's decisions.

Plenums have been held in all the party provincial committees. The meetings of party primary organizations are continuing. The plenums and meetings have unanimously supported the decisions of the party conference. They have unanimously signed the resolution on party unity. Unanimous decisions have been made to clear the party and apparatus of factionalists and sectionalists.

Comrade Najibullah added [words indistinct] and work every hour to convene a Grand Assembly and to carry out successfully the National Council elections. [Words indistinct] of our party credibility will be related to this matter.

It is certainly necessary to join all our plans and practical affairs with the practical readiness to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the April Revolution. The people should feel this readiness in connection with specific tasks and specific attention to people. All our works tasks oblige us to be firm, highly disciplined, and efficient. Everything that we mentioned at the nationwide conference should be carried out without delay. It is necessary to change the talk in favor of peace to action in favor of peace. [passage indistinct]

Then Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Barat, hero pilot of the DRA, made a speech on behalf of the personnel of the Air Force and Air Defense Forces, voicing thanks for the attention of the party and revolutionary state to those forces. [passage omitted]

The *Bakhtar* correspondent adds that comrade Maj Gen Muhammad Rafi' made a speech in which he expressed appreciation to Comrade Najibullah for attending the meeting of the Air Force and Air Defense Forces. On behalf of the personnel of the Defense Ministry he pledged to work decisively to put into practice the decisions and resolutions of the second nationwide PDPA conference and to fight firmly and selflessly to carry out the tasks assigned to them, for the defense of the homeland and the ensuring of peace and tranquility all over the country.

The work of the session ended with the DRA national anthem.

Kawiani-Led Delegation Departs for CSSR Visit

LD172309 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Today, a high-ranking PDPA delegation, led by Comrade Najmuddin Kawiani, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, left for the CSSR on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the Communist Party Central Committee of Czechoslovakia.

At Kabul airport the delegation was seen off by Haydar Masud, member of the Politburo, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, and deputy head of the party's International Relations Department, and Bohuslav Handl, ambassador and extraordinary representative of the CSSR in Kabul.

Korean Workers Party Delegation Leaves 17 Nov

LD170930 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0433 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Kabul, November 16, *Bakhtar*—The delegation of the Central Committee of Korean Workers Party (KWP) led by Kim Kuk-hun, first deputy chairman of the KWP Central Committee Department of Social Organisations, left here for home today.

The delegation was here at the invitation of the PDPA. The delegation during its stay here had meetings with high party and state leaders and visited different institutions.

Soviet Aid Protocol For Bakeries Signed

LD172231 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Today, in the headquarters of the Economic Consultative Council, a protocol on establishing bakeries in Mazar-e Sharif and Herat was signed today as part of the Soviet technical and economic assistance to the private sector under a 50-million-ruble credit with the participation of Afghan enterpreneurs.

The protocol was signed on behalf of the DRA by Mir Amanuddin Amin, first vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and president of the Economic Consultative Council, and by Aleksandr Petrov, economic councillor of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul, on behalf of the Soviet Union.

A contract was signed for the purchase of the machinery and equipment for eight bakeries in the capital and provinces, to be bought after preliminary assessments, between the economic council of the Soviet Embassy and the DRA Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the private enterpreneurs.

Agricultural Aid Accord With Soviet Republic

LD160127 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0457 GMT 15 Nov 87

[Text] Kabul, November 14, *Bakhtar*—According to a protocol concluded between the Council of People's Deputies of Kabul City and the Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, apart from 1.2 million roubles for the years of 1987 and 1988, the Soviet Federative Socialist Republic will put agricultural machineries, chemical fertilizers and vegetable's seeds at the disposal of the Council of People's Deputies of Kabul City worth two hundred fifty thousand roubles. Agreement on the extra gratis aids to the DRA was renewed during the visit of Kabul city delegation to the Soviet Federative Socialist Republic on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. Based on the protocol, over 600 tons of chemical fertilizers and a number of agricultural machinaries arrived already to Kabul and will be distributed to the farmers in Kabul Province.

Economic Planning Group Meets With Soviets

LD172341 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] The Soviet-Afghan permanent economic cooperation subcommittee was convened today in the State Committee for Planning headquarters.

Attending on the DRA side were: Mahbubollah Koshani, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and president of the State Committee for Planning; planning commission deputies minister councillor plenipotentiary of commerce of the DRA in the Soviet Union; the secretary responsible for the Afghan-Soviet permanent cooperation committees; some directors of the planning commission; and a DRA Foreign Ministry representative.

Attending on the Soviet side were: Petr Andreyevich Paskar, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first deputy chairman of the State Planning Committee; Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, ambassador and extraordinary representative of the Soviet Union in Kabul; a plenipotentiary minister of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul, and members of the Soviet Delegation.

A BIA correspondent has reported that the sides talked about the circumstances for implementing the principal aspects of the socioeconomic development plan of the DRA for the years 1986-90 and assessed preparations for the long-term program for the development in the most important economic branches of the DRA after 1995.

They also talked about the committee which assesses the work of Soviet experts on the DRA's State Planning Committee and assessed the enhancement of the capibility of Afghan planning specialists in special advanced economic courses of the Soviet State Planning Committee and some other related issues.

According to another report, Mr Paskar and his accompanying delegation visited Jangalak factories today. They then attended a function held in their honor by Eshaq Kawa, minister of mines and industries, in the Babor Garden in Kabul.

Presidium To Release 71 Hazara Prisoners

LD172255 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, and president of the Revolutionary Council Presidium, delivered a speech at the first nationwide assembly of the toiling Hazara nationality, which dealt with securing tranquility for all our compatriots and providing conditions for a peaceful and tranquil life for every inhabitants of this land. In light of this guiding speech, the Revolutionary Council Presidium, in considering the issues relevant to the amnesty and reduction of sentences of a number of prisoners of Hazara nationality, has endorsed the following:

The remaining terms of imprisonment of 71 prisoners have been suspended and legal proceedings will be ended against 3 persons. Furthermore, a 21,000 afghani fine to be paid by another person is suspended.

This Revolutionary Council Presidium resolution for the release of the above prisoners was communicated to the relevant authorities.

Najibullah Meets With Laghman Province Elders

LD170926 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0430 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Kabul, November 16, *Bakhtar*—Dr. Najibullah, general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA and president of Revolutionary Council of the DRA, met with the elders and people's deputies of Laghman northern province on Sunday.

The speakers, representing different clans and tribes of Laghman Province, after highly appreciating the policy of national reconciliation as the only alternative against war and bloodshed which has been conducted against war and bloodshed which has been conducted against Afghanistan, promised that they will do their level best for the realisation of national reconciliation policy.

The elders and people's deputies of Laghman Province have submitted their views, demands and proposals during this meeting.

Armed Group Surrenders in Konduz Province

LD160919 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0424 GMT 16 Nov 87

[Text] Kabul, November 15, *Bakhtar*: Konduz Province was witnessing great successes in the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation during the past week.

Our military reporter writes from that province that an armed group of 150 rpt 150 persons abandoned its armed activities by coming over to the side of people's sovereignty in a district of that province.

The week elapsed had also manifestations of hostile activities of those who are still carry out their enmity towards national reconciliation.

A number of extremists who were active in some areas of Konduz Province were crushed on the request made by the inhabitants of these areas to rescue their peaceful life. The operations resulted to the capture of a number of the extremists including their heads.

A large quantity of arms and explosives have also been seized during the operations notwithstanding the activities of the enemies of national reconciliation, the life is normally going on. The revolutionary sovereignty is

being consolidated and those who received plots of land as a result of agrarian reform are working on it. They are busy harvesting cotton from their farms in these days.

IRNA Reports on Recent Mujahidin Successes

LD172217 Tehran IRNA in English 1757 GMT 17 Nov 87

[spelling of place names as received]

[Text] London, Nov. 17, IRNA—130 Afghan Government troops joined the mujahidin freedom fighters last Sunday when fierce fighting was going on in Pakhtia Province, spokesman for Hezb-e Eslami, Yunis Khalis has said.

A report by the *Agency Afghan Press* (AAP) monitored by IRNA here said Tuesday that 100 Afghan soldiers arrived at the centre of Commander Mawlawi Nezamuddin Haqqani, who is leading the mujahidin in the current military operation with Commander Eng. Fayz Muhammed Khan.

Another group of 30 Afghan troops joined the resistance movement stationed with Commander Khan. The Afghan troops were mainly conscripts by the Soviet authorities.

The report added that the mujahidin repulsed a major offensive at Mani Kandao front and that the attackers had to retreat towards Khost Cant, carrying with them their dead and injured.

In another development one high-ranking Afghan intelligence-Khad official and his two bodyguards were killed by mujahidin in the northern province of Samangan on November 5.

During this operation two mujahids, Rozi Gul and Ghulam Muhammad Khan were martyred in the cross fire. Khad's chief, Brig. Gen. Abdul Mannan was subsequently killed in Ghazni Province two days later.

Bangladesh

Ershad Reiterates Opposition to Anarchy

BK171637 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] President Ershad has reiterated that his government would not allow any quarter to take the path of unconstitutional means to create indiscipline and anarchy. He was addressing the additional secretaries and joint secretaries and heads of divisions and departments of different ministries, and semi-government and autonomous bodies at the Agricultural Research Council auditorium in Dhaka today.

The president said only a fraction of the people can support the unconstitutional means in order to disturb social peace for achieving their personal benefits. [sentence as heard] He said the government officials should give a deep thought to the prevailing socioeconomic and political situation. What had been happening in some parts of the country at the instance of these elements during the last few days could not be described as constitutional. President Ershad said his government, being democratically and constitutionally elected, cannot shut its eyes to such unconstitutional and undemocratic activities by some people. The time has come when the conscious section of the society should apply their judgment and influence those trying to disturb peace and stability to refrain from such activities.

The president said our Constitution is a sacred document and if anything in it is to be amended it must be done through constitutional means. Any amendment to the Constitution must be done by the Parliament, the constitutional body authorized to do so. He said his government will go by the Constitution. If the government fails to uphold the Constitution, everything, including the administration, would be in disarray, creating chaotic conditions in the country.

Earlier, addressing the workers and employees of the Mehar Industries, an enterprise of the steel and engineering corporation in the capital, the president said the selfish activities of certain political parties trying to create anarchy and social indiscipline will greatly affect the national economy and development. He called upon them to raise their voice against the attempts aimed at undermining the democratic process and democratic institutions. The president urged the political parties to return to the constitutional path of election for any change of the government. Otherwise, the ominous outcome of the unconstitutional movement would sweep all away, he added.

He also thanked the workers and employees of Mehar Industries and all other industrial units for maintaining the production despite the strike call by a section of the opposition. During the visit of the factory and electrical and electronic assembly plants, the president was taken round different assembly lines. Deputy Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed was with him.

According to official sources, normal production and other activities continued today in 36 out of 40 textile mills under the Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation. Eight mills in Chittagong region, 18 in Dhaka, 6 in Khulna, and 4 in Rajshahi functioned normally. Trains throughout the country ran on schedule today. According to official sources, the trains left on time from different important stations, including Dhaka. During hartal [strike] period, attempts were made to disrupt rail communication by displacing rail track near (Shripur),

Netrakona, and Shamshernagar stations. But the railway employees, with the help of law enforcing agencies, quickly repaired the rail tracks and restored communication.

Indian Offices Attacked in Chittagong, Dhaka

BK171648 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] In Bangladesh, a mob of around 2,000 people attacked Indian Airlines and Air India office in Chittagong this morning. A bomb was also thrown into the office damaging a car. In another incident, a bomb was thrown into the Indian high commissioner's office in Dhaka last night. The Indian commissioner in Dhaka, Mr I.S Chaddha, met the deputy foreign minister of Bangladesh, Mr Wajid Ali Khan Punny, and lodged a strong protest over the incident. Mr Punny assured necessary police protection at the Indian High Commission's offices in Dhaka and Chittagong.

Meanwhile, at least 25 persons were injured in clashes between rival political groups at Narayanganj, 25 km from Dhaka, this morning. Our Dhaka correspondent reports that police fired several rounds to disperse the violent mob. Agency reports say one person was killed in the clashes. Normal life was disrupted in Dhaka and several parts of the country as the opposition sponsored half-day hartal [strike] continued for the fourth day today. Train services were paralyzed as some people squatted over rail tracks and fish plates had been removed at many places.

India

Gandhi: Talks With China 'Progressed Well'

BK171608 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] The prime minister says that the talks between India and Chinese officials held in New Delhi since Sunday [14 November] have progressed well. The talks ended today.

Addressing officers undergoing a course at the National Defense College in the capital, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said that progress has been made to find a solution to the various problems. However, he cautioned against expecting quick and easy solutions.

Replying to a question, Mr Gandhi said that apart from the border issue we are talking about cooperation in several areas.

Briefing newsmen about the talks, an official spokesman said an atmosphere has been created for further development of our relations and settlement of differences. Asked whether the talks might be elevated to the political level, the spokesman recalled the former external affairs minister, Mr Tiwari's, observations that this could be done at an appropriate time.

Both sides stressed that friendly relations between the two countries are vital for maintaining peace in Asia. They reaffirmed their desire to reach a peaceful negotiated settlement of the boundary question. The spokesman said India's intention is to reconstruct relations with China and to build a favorable climate of mutual trust and cooperation. He said the Chinese delegation also stressed that their government attaches importance to development of friendly relations with India and hoped to establish a relationship of friendship and mutual trust.

Gandhi: Sri Lankan Presence Not Like Vietnam

BK171638 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Report on address by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi at the National Defense College in New Delhi on 17 November]

[Text] The prime minister in his address at the National Defense College said it is totally wrong to compare the presence of the peacekeeping force [PKF] in Sri Lanka with what had happened in Vietnam. He said the LTTE does not represent the Tamilians of Sri Lanka as they do not enjoy their support. The Sri Lankan Tamilians have been indirectly supporting the PKF. The prime minister paid tributes to the PKF for their work.

Referring to the growth of fundamentalism in the country, Mr Gandhi said this is a serious matter and can be solved only through the cooperation of the principal political parties. He called upon various parties to arrive at a concensus against the misuse of religious places.

Mr Gandhi said there can be no peace based on a nuclear deterrent. The more we rely on such weapons, the more unrealistic the balance of power becomes. Mr Gandhi referred to the forthcoming visit of the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, to Washington and hoped that they will be able to remove the snags and sign a treaty leading to the dismantling of missiles.

'Vigilant' Forces on Pakistani Border Noted

BK170931 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] The minister of state for home affairs, Mr Chidambaram, assured the Rajya Sabha today that Indian security forces and intelligence agencies are quite vigilant to bust any network of Pakistani spies in the border areas. Replying to a question, he reiterated that the security of the country will not be compromised at any cost. Even defense forces are quite prepared to meet any challenge from Pakistan, he added. The minister told the house that the government is considering amending the official secret act and give it more teeth.

Acting Sikh Chief Resigns After Meeting
BK171701 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] The acting chief of the Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion], Professor Darshan Singh, has resigned. He announced it after a meeting with leaders of various Sikh organizations at Gurdwara Fatehgarh Saheb at Patiala this afternoon. The meeting was convened by Professor Darshan Singh to review the present situation. He said Sikh religious leaders stepped in as the political leaders lack the spirit of sacrifice and failed to solve the Punjab problem, as he put it. [sentence as heard] The meeting demanded immediate release of Jodhpur [Sikh political] detenues and restoration of the sanctity of religious places.

The Akali Dal-Longowal has called for a new political initiative to solve the Punjab problem. A memorandum submitted to the president, Mr Venkataraman, by a 10-member delegation of the party called for release of Jodhpur detenues and punishment to those responsible for the November 1984 riots [following the assassination of Indira Gandhi]. The delegation was led by the party president, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala. Members of the party held a day-long dharna [sit down agitation] at the Boat Club today in support of their demands.

Joint Italian Economic Ties Reviewed
BK170536 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] The Italian minister of state for foreign trade [title as heard], Mr Alberto Rossi, and the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Eduardo Faleiro, reviewed economic and commercial ties between the two countries in New Delhi yesterday. Mr Rossi indicated that Italy would seek to increase Indian exports to his country with a view to reducing the imbalance. The Italian minister also met the minister of state for agriculture, Mr Yogendra Makwana.

Paper Questions Why No Indians Speak at GOSR
BK161117 Calcutta ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 7 Nov 87 pp 1,5

[By special correspondent]

[Text] New Delhi, 6 November—No one from India was given a chance to speak at the meeting held in Moscow on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution [GOSR]. The representatives of the CPI-M, CPI, and Congress Party were present at this meeting. The Communists were particularly unhappy at not being allowed to address the meeting. Indrajit Gupta, a veteran [communist] leader who was invited separately as a member of the Indian Trade Union Congress, said: That no one from India had a chance to speak was really very unfortunate. However, I do not want to accuse or hold anyone exclusively responsible; at the same time, I do not want to say that it was done with any motive.

When contacts were made with the CPI-M in this regard, a spokesman said that they had received no report on the issue. Only after getting a formal report can discussion on the issue take place.

It should be mentioned in this regard that nearly all communist parties in the world are invited to important communist party meetings. If non-left parties are also taken into consideration, then the number of invited parties to such meetings goes up to about 400. China also sent a delegation to this meeting. The instance of not allowing India to speak at such a historic gathering is rather unprecedented. Never before has such a thing taken place.

The CPI statement said that India is a great nation, and on that basis why was not one of the Indian speakers allowed to speak? However, if it was for want of time or other valid reasons, then that is a different story.

Observers believe that there could be other reasons. First, India was the only country with two communist parties invited. If the CPI and CPI-M were allowed to speak at the meeting separately, it would indicate that both are equal in the eyes of the Soviet Union. On the other hand, it would have surely created more controversy if instead of the two communist groups speaking, a representative of the Congress Party was allowed to speak. Relations between the Soviet Communist Party and the Congress Party certainly cannot be closer than those with the communist parties. Most probably, when all these factors were considered no one from India was allowed to speak at the meeting.

There could also be another reason for not allowing the Congress Party representative to speak. In addition to the fear of giving more importance to the Congress Party, something else was probably bothering the CPSU leaders. A changing trend has been noticed recently in the foreign policy of the Government of India. The government seems to be tilting more toward the United States and other Western countries, whom it had previously avoided. Perhaps in this way the CPSU was trying to convey to the Congress Party that it is quite aware of the situation and does not like this trend. The Congress Party was represented at this meeting by Ramratan Ram.

Several leaders were invited to the celebrations for individual recognition. They included Darbara Singh, Krishna Iyre, and Chandrajit Yadav. A Central Trade Union delegation was also present. There was an open discussion among the communist parties on 4 and 5 November, and it is believed here that everyone from India took part in the discussion.

Iran

Khamene'i Addresses Maneuver Participants

LD171130 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0933 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Speech by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i at a gathering of participants in the Mohammad Corps maneuvers in Hamadan on 17 November—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Thanks be to God. Peace and greetings to our Lord and Prophet Mohammad, father of Qasim, and salutations to his holy scion and worldly remnants. The response of the people of Hamadan to a request made by state officials and the 10-point statement issued by the Supreme War Support Council demonstrates the love and sincerity of you, dear ones, to our esteemed and great imam. It demonstrates your interest in the issues of the revolution and shows your freedom and understanding of the current issues affecting the country and the revolution.

Today, a new phase has begun. It was initiated by the request made to our dear imam by the Supreme War Support Council, the reply of his holiness, and the release of the 10-point statement. We are now witnessing the first great popular movement in the city and province of Hamadan. We are not surprised by this. You, the people of this city and this province, have always passed your tests well. This stems from your faith, your devotion, your love for the revolution, and your awareness. I am excited at being present in your huge gathering. I, and people like me, are unable to express our feelings and heartfelt emotions. This is an example of glory and greatness right in front of our eyes.

Before turning to the subject of my speech, I would like to stress one point to the dear brothers and sisters from the various strata of the city and province of Hamadan. The secret behind the victory of every nation is to have access to so much emotion as this and to the understanding of local and international issues exhibited here. When a nation reaches this degree of courage, devotion, readiness, and understanding of world affairs, one should realize that such a nation will achieve success and victory wherever it goes and in whatever direction it turns, be this on the military battlefield, the arena of reconstruction, or the arena of political clashes at an international level. I congratulate you on this high morale, dear people of Hamadan. I assure you that I will convey my impressions of all the details of your huge gathering to our dear imam and great leader.

The issue that I would like to discuss today is this: During the last 4 or 5 months, certain developments have taken place in the world. Certain events have occurred which are unprecedented in the course of the imposed war. We have never before witnessed such events. One can clearly see the hand of the United States and global arrogance in international events, political incidents, and countless actions and reactions. Several months prior to this, there was a rumor of a possible U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf. First it was a rumor, then it became news, then a request, and finally a reality. There have been clashes in the Persian Gulf for several years. Oil tankers and even merchant ships have faced fire for several years in the Persian Gulf. The reactionary regimes of the region and such governments as those of Arabia and Kuwait have been concerned with their physical and legal security for several years now.

In all that time the idea did not occur to anybody for the United States to enter the arena, to bring America to the Persian Gulf. The U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf region existed before. The United States has a military base in Bahrain. It has dozens of various projects in different countries in the Persian Gulf region. American ships used to ply the Persian Gulf, too. But what the Americans proposed, implemented, and realized through the ignorant and foolish shaykhs of Kuwait is not a simple presence.

Suddenly the world saw with surprise that dozens of U.S. warships had arrived in Persian Gulf Waters, one after the other, and under various pretexts. The situation became such that the regional countries were frightened. Officials from Persian Gulf states repeatedly declared that the U.S. presence did not make them happy; they asserted that they were not happy with the extensive presence of so many warships.

Why is that? What issue faces the United States in this region? That is the question. In addition to this, we have witnessed other incidents in the Arab world, the Middle East, and North Africa which are no less topical than the presence of the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf. The various comings and goings, talks, whispers, sessions, and secret deals between Arab shaykhs and potentates and some dying and isolated leaders, such as the Egyptian and Jordanian regimes, as well as other incidents, eventually resulted in the Amman conference, which was attended by the reactionaries. That session was so scandalous, and the hand of the United States and arrogance was so visible in it, that even nonrevolutionary people in the world were aware of it. The leaders of reactionary Arab countries were really disgraced in front of the Arab nations.

During the last few months, several notable incidents have also occurred in the world. The UN Security Council issued a resolution with a great deal of publicity. Unjustly and contrary to the wishes of the Iranian nation, being more in accordance with the interests of the Iraqi regime, they wrote some articles in the resolution. To shut us up and to keep us happy, they made a reference to the aggressor and the initiator of the war in this resolution. Of course, for diplomatic reasons and so as not to shut all doors, we did not reject that resolution.

We said: Let us begin and see how real and serious your claims are. Let us see how justly you can resolve the issue. So far they have not done so; and there is little hope of it.

This is the sum total of the events of the past few months. As I have said, these events are unprecedented in the history of the war, a conflict which has been going on for more than 7 years. The question is: What has happened, or is about to happen, in the region which has so greatly upset the arrogant system and those who, as we well know, are opposed to Islam and the revolution, that they are trying, with all their comings and goings, spending money, and accepting international disgrace, to prevent what is about to happen and to minimize the losses resulting from what has already taken place? What is the secret here? We should follow this up. We have understood things correctly. It can be summed up in one sentence, which the world's mass media have no reservations about expressing today; that is, the Ba'thist regime of Iraq and the system now running that regime have lost their strength to the extent that they have no hope of withstanding the powerful and crushing blows of the Iranian nation for long. [chanting from crowd]

I will give you an example of the kind of remarks that have been made by fully informed and reliable sources so that you, brothers and sisters, can guess what other comments they wanted to but did not make. The International Institute of Strategic Studies based in London, which predicts world political and military events and whose assessments are accepted by international observers, has recently announced that during the past year—that is, just last year—the Iraqi regime lost 300,000 of its troops between the ages of 18 and 30. The Iraqi regime last year alone lost 300,000 in the 18-30 age group. It is felt in the world that the Iraqi regime does not have the necessary manpower and lacks the necessary morale and national determination to withstand the crushing blows of the heroes of Islam. That is how things stand with regard to its manpower capability.

Let us now turn to its financial circumstances. After the assistance given to the Iraqi regime during the early days of the war, and the tens of billions of dollars paid by the (?shaykhs) of the Persian Gulf Region, these have gradually become disappointed and have changed their minds about continuing such aid, although they do not wish to divulge this openly. However, all evidence points to this. The Iraqi regime's back is now bent to the point of cracking under the heavy strain of its debt and the daily increasing war expenses. Meanwhile, inside Iraqi territory, in Baghdad itself, popular movements are rising. On the day the Iraqi regime announced that people should not leave their houses while a general census was carried out, various groups of people staged rallies and, contrary to the wishes of the regime, poured into the streets, demonstrated, and chanted slogans against Saddam with clenched fists. They clashed with the security forces. There have been similar movements both before and since in Baghdad. There have been students' movements, people's movements, and even military movements against the Iraqi regime. That is to say, Saddam and his ilk are now incapable of running and maintaining their country's internal security. This happened in Baghdad, but similar events have taken place in other cities, particularly in the Kurdish inhabited regions, and some Arab inhabited areas in the south. That is the state of their domestic situation.

Now let us study the situation inside our own country. Here is something which is quite clear even to the amazed eyes of international observers: Seven years have passed since the war began, and during all this time we have not borrowed a single dollar from any foreign country. We have not received military aid from any foreign country. None of the major powers or arms exporters in the world have given us modern weapons formally, openly, or in recognized ways. They have always hidden the sophisticated weapons from us and have deprived us from gaining access to them. At the same time, we are witnessing ever-increasing popular power and movement inside the country—both at the front and behind the battlelines. This is quite clear to the amazed eyes of the people of the world. They can see this. They can see that we are even deprived of spare parts for our planes, the spare parts for which the U.S. Government was paid prior to the revolution and which are now stored in U.S. depots. The world can see that the Italian Government is refusing to give us the helicopters which it sold us several years ago and for which it has already received money. The world can see that Britain is refusing to hand over to us the tanks for which it received payment prior to the revolution after signing an agreement. The world can see that France has kept several billions of dollars of the loan it received from our country before the revolution.

Despite all of these biased stances, shortcomings, evil deeds, rejections, and lack of cooperation, they can see that we are growing daily and that we are becoming more advanced with regard to our equipment. We did not have missiles before, and now we do. Our surface-to-air defense system is now more powerful than before. Now we can even see higher morale among our Air Force warriors, the fast-flying pilots of our planes and helicopters. It is higher than it was in the early days of the war. Despite the lack of spare parts, we still have successful flights, successful air patrols, and successful air raids. Despite the fact that no country in the world has agreed to sell advanced and modern armored weapons to us, we possess advanced and modern armored weapons in the battlefield. [crowd shouts "God is Great"] Despite the fact that the world denied us everything, today we have everything. And above all, despite the elapse of 7 years since the war began, despite the fact that so many martyrs have been submitted to the revolution and for the sake of victory, millions of people today are volunteering throughout the country with emotion, bravery, and full readiness. They are prepared to go and run to the battlefields and fill the trenches. One example of this is the great gathering that you can see in this square today.

The same excitement, the same feeling, and the same morale exist throughout the country, in every city and in every province. The world can see this. The world analyzes this under its magnifying glass and becomes concerned. This is the problem.

After the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, global arrogance was very frightened. The reactionaries of the region were petrified. The thrones of the ruling classes were shaken. The royal palaces trembled. All of them, however, hoped that this revolution would be imprisoned within the four walls of this country and that this feeling, culture, morale, and martyrdom-seeking spirit would not be exported from Iran to other parts of the world. They concentrated all their efforts to prevent this, lest other Muslim societies and other Islamic countries, just like the nation of Iran, are turned into a huge indefatigable power against global arrogance. That is what they were hoping would happen.

Global arrogance, the reactionaries of the region, the leech-like, tyrannical, and blood-sucking kings, and the anti-Islamic and unpopular leaders and rulers feel that what they were frightened of is now happening. They know that should Iran and the Islamic Republic achieve victory in the war, in which global arrogance has invested so much wealth and power, Islam would rise up throughout the entire Islamic world. They know that should Islam win in this war, they would have to defend themselves all over the world. Global arrogance would then have no power to launch aggression against Islam. They realize this quite well. This is the reason behind the presence of the United States.

It was not out of its concern for the Kuwaiti oil tankers that the United States came to the Persian Gulf. The United States would not come to the Persian Gulf only to use a number of U.S. warships to escort several Kuwaiti oil tankers once every few days. The United States would not go through so much difficulty for a small job like that. It has come to the Persian Gulf with another objective in mind. Reagan, by coming to the Persian Gulf, lost his prestige within U.S. society, as well as all the false glory which he sought for himself and for U.S. power in the world. This happened to such an extent that he had to retreat step by step. They are again retreating now. After this they will retreat even further. They have disgraced themselves by this deed. They invested and spent so much. They turned U.S. public opinion against themselves and were forced to discard their main pawns. What for? Just for defending a few Kuwaiti ships? Just to guard Kuwait's oil? Never! Never! This was not the problem. The problem is much greater.

The U.S. Government does not wish to support Kuwait; it intends to prevent the victory of Islam, the victory of the Islamic Republic, in Iraq. They are worried about Iraq's future. They are worried that through the victories of Islam and our combatants, an Islamic government might be established in Iraq. They are worried because they see that they are now confronting an immense power in the region. What will they do when this power is multiplied in the wake of a victory in this war? This power could turn into a vast uncontrollable power by joining with Iraq. That is what they worry about. It is for this reason that you see that the hands and arms of arrogance have come from everywhere to help him, from Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and Arab states, all of whom have common interests here. All of them have a share in it. They are all against the victory of Islam.

Developments in the region, this propaganda sensation that they have created, this diplomatic movement that they have started among the Arab states, and the fact that the Americans are treating this region as their base, as a garage that they can drive into and out of at any moment—and from time to time their officials visit here—all this is done because they want to boost morale. They feel that this immense Islamic power, in the face of Iraq's weakness, can only result in victory. That is their worry. This is a fact, which exists in our region today. How should we exploit this fact, which is in our interest and in the interest of Islam? That is the issue. This question is more important than the first one. Sometimes there are opportunities for nations, but they cannot exploit them. Such opportunities will be lost.

There is a proverb that says: There are gifts to you from God in the course of your lives; arise and seize them. Make use of opportunities; make use of God's gifts. Utilize that which God has bestowed upon you. If you do not make use of them, they will be taken away from you. Today we possess an exceptional opportunity. This exceptional opportunity is that to which I have referred. In our human resources and in the existing capacity of our country, we enjoy a great, divine asset: Millions of believing, enthusiastic, combative, brave, and loving individuals. On the other hand, facing us is a desperate, economically bankrupt, and politically bankrupt regime. It is an empty shell, which is only kept alive by the transfusion of blood given to it. This is an opportunity. How can one make use of this opportunity?

If we do not show our might at the battlefronts, then this opportunity will be lost. If we do not deliver repeated and regular blows at the enemy, then this opportunity will be lost. In order to make use of this divine opportunity, the Supreme War Support Council has reached the conclusion that we must continue operations regularly and repeatedly, beginning now and continuing for as long as necessary. This great popular move is not for the sake of just one series of operations. This great gathering and other gatherings like it throughout the country, which are either going on now or which will be organized during the next couple of weeks, are not for the sake of just one single operation. They are for the sake of continual operations. They are for delivering repeated blows. We should not give the enemy any respite.

This is our great historical test. This is a juncture where the Iranian nation should decide the course of history. If this great force is used for this purpose, then the future of

human history will belong to Islam and to truth. Various nations will benefit from it. Various nations will arise. Islam will experience a great ascendance in various countries. However, if we do not make use of this opportunity, then this divine asset and bounty will be taken away from us, from the hands of the Iranian people. Other nations will also lose hope as a result of the bitter experiences of our nation.

This is a very great and very fundamental opportunity. Today the world admits that Iran is a historical and decisive power; and this is true. We are a historical and decisive power. This power is not that of individuals. It is the power of religion. It is the power of faith. It is the power of the masses; it is your power. There is no doubt about it. You possess a great power and you should make use of it. Those who can support the fronts should participate and strengthen them. There are many people at the fronts who are prepared to go to the front lines. They will perform their tasks at the front lines. However, there may be others who will find themselves chosen by those who utilize human resources for the rear. This, too, will be the scene of battles, although at the rear. There may be many others who will be used behind the lines, in their own houses, in different environments, in their schools, in government departments, and in universities. They, too, will constitute a force behind the fronts. Women can be soldiers of Islam inside their own homes. The elderly can be soldiers and fighters for Islam inside their own cities. Youths can manifest the divine power bestowed upon them at all the fronts. Those who can will contribute with their lives, and those who are not able to do so will contribute with their wealth. This is the purpose of this great popular movement now.

My dear brothers, I swear by God that if we provide any opportunity for this aggressive Ba'thist enemy, then no sign will be left of this country, of this nation, or of Islam in this country. If we provide them with an opportunity, then the enemy will become more aggressive; world arrogance will become more aggressive. If we provide the enemy with an opportunity, then not only we ourselves but the Muslims of Iraq, too, will be trampled upon. If we provide the enemy with an opportunity, then the combative forces of Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, and other Islamic countries, who are clenching their fists in the face of the suppression practiced by these regimes and who endure prison and torture, will also be trampled upon. Today our movement will decide the fate of Islamic countries. It will even decide the fate of history.

As the officials of the country, we are prepared. I am wearing a mobilization warrior's uniform as a sign of pride. I would be proud if Almighty God accepted me as a mobilization member. If Almighty God bestowed his favor, and if I were able to do so, I would have been prepared to serve in the front lines of the war, to fight with my gun, and to fight until I achieved martyrdom on God's path. Today, unfortunately, we do not have the honor to fight in those proud fields. However, we are prepared to use all our resources and all our abilities at this critical juncture. We are prepared to accept any responsibility anywhere, at any spot, and for any task. Thanks be to God, the same is true of all the country's officials.

At Supreme War Support Council sessions, our dear brothers, our colleagues, and top-ranking officials of the Islamic Republic are all in a position of complete readiness. All of them are prepared to take their lives in their hands and enter those fields. We receive our morale from you, the people. To witness this great movement of the people also raises our morale. When we see how high the enthusiasm and love of the peole are, it takes away our fatigue.

The city of Hamadan alone has organized 50,000 people in the form of 5 corps and 16 divisions for maneuvers. This is no small thing. To organize 50,000 forces requires the support of hundreds of thousands of people. As our dear friends have said here, and also to me earlier, the support of hundreds of thousands of people has been achieved so that this great move can be carried out.

These supportive efforts should be continued in full force and on the widest possible scale. Those who have the means and the money should become involved. They should spend for God what God, this society, and various opportunities in the country have given them. The rich should not sit back and let the poor help the war effort; they should give as much as the others. They should act better, more sympathetically. Today, this country's honor and Islamic reputation depend on the people's great movement. Hand in hand, the government and the nation should move along this course and seek God's help. I have no doubt that the blessings and kind eye of the Lord of the Ages is on you, the people. Could all this faith, piety, mention of God, and self-sacrifice be overlooked by the great representative of God? Could it not attract the well wishes of his excellency?

Such is the reality of our society. Such are the requests and comments of the country's officials to you, the people. It is an extraordinary and exceptional period in which we are at the height of strength and power with regard to facilities, manpower, and equipment. The enemy is in a desperate situation with regard to the same points. We must utilize this power by dealing repeated blows on the battlefields. Our combative forces, our Army, our Guards Corps, and the great popular mobilization forces should go and capture the battlefields. The people have always been the focal point of every activity and at the war fronts; they should continue to be so.

With God's blessings, we shall make the utmost use of this readiness. I hope that, God willing, we will be able to deal repeated, firm, decisive, quick, and sudden blows to the enemy so that he does not even have the chance to breathe. [chanting from the crowd] We call on Almighty God to bear witness to our actions. We say: O God, You know that the intentions of these people and officials are good. More than anyone else, You are aware of the

sincerity of the imam, that leader of this nation. You can see the extent of sincerity in all his actions. You can see what a pious and sincere person he is. You know that this nation is ready to make Your religion the highest of all, to raise the banner of Islam. We ask God to help us in all these matters.

I tell you decisively, dear people, that you will achieve victory, divine victory and success in the various stages of our future operations. These blows are not dealt to the Iraqi regime alone. They will also definitely affect arrogance and arrogant policies; they will shatter the image of world arrogance, the Great Satan in particular; and they will either erase or weaken its evil influence in the region.

I ask Almighty God to biess you all. I deem it necessary to thank each and every one of you, dear brothers and sisters. I wish also to thank those dear ones who have organized this mobilization; the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, which has shown the necessary readiness for this task and was able to organize this great movement and prepare the volunteers for this great exercise and presence. I wish to thank all government departments and executive directors, each of which has supported this movement in various ways. I wish to thank the esteemed clergy, especially the imam's honorable representative in Hamadan Province, who has tried his best to enlighten all the hearts to this reality. I wish to thank all the military teams, who have made the people happy and have given them hope with their blows. I thank each and every one of you, dear men and women of Hamadan, who have welcomed and supported these dear ones with all your hearts and who have taken part in this gathering. God willing, in a few days, or in a week or two, they will be dispatched to the fronts, organized by the Guards Corps.

Of course, people should enlist. The Guards Corps brothers are to observe the lists and send each person or group on their mission when it is their turn.

I will now say a few prayers. I ask this great and pious crowd to say amen and to pray to Almighty God to answer these prayers.

O God, bring victory to Mohammad and his clan and the Iranian nation. [amen from the crowd] O God, make our combatants resolute, strong, and victorious. [amen from the crowd] O God, give our great and dear imam, this beating heart of the Iranian nation, health and long life. [amen from the crowd] O God, fulfill the wishes of our dear leader. O God, bring the blessings of the Lord of the Ages to us.

I wish to express my respect and humility to the dear families of the martyrs, to those who are here and to those who are not here. I declare that the families of martyrs are like a bouquet of flowers and a crown for this nation. The dear families of the martyrs are the epitome of self-sacrifice, and no doubt the biggest burden of the Islamic Republic system lies on their shoulders. It was they who sent their dear ones to the battlefields and made the greatest of sacrifices. I express my greetings and respects to each and every member of the dear families of martyrs. Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

Returns to Tehran

LD171850 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] President Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, returned to Tehran this afternoon after visiting the city of Hamadan where he witnessed the great 100,000-strong maneuvers codenamed "His Holiness Muhammad, Peace Be Upon Him."

Musavi: Nation 'Will Not Negotiate Cease-Fire'

LD181054 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov 18, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here Wednesday that all government bodies are at the service of the war stressing that Iran will not negotiate a cease-fire.

Speaking after a cabinet ministers session the prime minister said that the recently issued 10-point statement of the Headquarters for the War Support is on the one hand a clear response to those who want to rescue Saddam from being punished. It is also a response to U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf and plots of the reactionary regimes of the region against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The public response to the call of the Headquarters for Mass Mobilization, he said, showed public determination to regain its rights.

The government, the premier added, will deploy all its resources in this respect.

In reply to a question on despatching a representative to the United Nations for talks on Resolution 598, Prime Minister Musavi said "We will not negotiate a cease-fire". Naturally, the Iranian representative will hold talks with the U.N. secretary general on the bases of principles of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he added.

'Zafar-3' Operation Launched in Al-Sulaymaniyah

1,000 Iraqi Forces Killed

LD180839 Tehran IRNA in English 0828 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 18, IRNA—Iran's Revolutionary Guards and Iraq's Kurdish Peshmergas launched a joint infiltration operation in the Darbandi Khan [spelling as received] region, in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province Monday night, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy troops.

Over 1,000 Iraqi forces were killed or wounded and a great number of others captured during Zafar-3 operations launched in Iraq's Darbandi Khan, south of Al-Sulaymaniyan Province two nights ago. So far 50 POWs have been transferred behind the fronts.

The operation code-named 'Ya Rasul Allah' (After Prophet Mohammad, SAW) was carried out by commandos of the 75th Zafar Brigade of the ground forces of the Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps (IRGC) and Muslim Kurdish Peshmergas, Sulaymaniyah branch. It concluded last night.

During the operation, the power transmission installations of Darbandi Khan dam was damaged by 70 percent which caused an extensive black-out in Darbandi Khan and southern Iraq.

Destruction of installations of foreign companies, the command headquarters of the 36th Division of the First Corps and a motorised part of the division were among other achievements of the operation.

Meanwhile, Al-Sulaymaniyah-Baghdad highway came under control of the joint combantants for six hours.

Barracks Destroyed

LD181029 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0937 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] During "Zarfar-3" operations, the heavy artillery fire of the forces of Islam destroyed most of the (Bardarasht) barracks, the center for deploying and organizing the (Jaysh al-Sha'bi) forces in Iraq, and killed or wounded most of the personnel stationed there.

According to a report from the "Zafar-3" operational zone, those barracks, situated at the intersection of Sayyid Sadiq and (Kanipanja), 30 km from (Darbandi Khan) in Iraq, were responsible for operations to suppress the Muslim Kurdish people of the region. The artillery fire of the forces of Islam also set fire to much of the barracks' equipment and installations.

Artillery Unit Destroyed

LD181134 Tehran IRNA in English 1121 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 18, IRNA—Iran's Muslim combatants destroyed the artillery unit of Iraqi Division 36, including at least four 130-mm guns, in Banikhalan region 70 kms south of Al-Sulaymaniyah, west of Al-Sulaymaniyah-Baghdad road, in the course of Zafar-3 operations.

During the operation several tanks of the armoured unit and a number of vehicles in the motor pool of the division were destroyed and five fuel tanks were also set afire.

Second Attack on Nuclear Plant Reported

LD171724 Tehran IRNA in English 1719 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA—Bushehr nuclear powerplant was bombed by Iraqi warplanes for the second time today at 1700 hours local time (1330 hours GMT). Tuesday's first air raid on the plant occurred shortly before mid-day (1145 hours local time).

Jurgan Friedrichs, a West German engineer from the T.U.V. Company was killed in the raid. The plant is being constructed by Iranian experts in collaboration with the West German T.U.V. Company. It is a wholly non-military unit.

West German Killed in Attack

LD171719 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov 17, IRNA—Ten civilians were martyred and seven others wounded, two of them seriously, in Tuesday's Iraqi air raid on Bushehr nuclear power plant in southern Iran.

According to the latest reports, a West German national, Jurgen Friedrichs a member of the West German nuclear supervising company is among the killed.

Bushehr nuclear power plant had been bombed earlier by Iraqi warplanes on April 13, 1984, March 4 and March 24, 1985 with the Baghdad regime denying each time that it had bombed the plant.

But, pictures taken by foreign photojournalists of the bombed areas have confirmed the Iraqi violation of the International Atomic Energy Agency's regulations and the 1970 Geneva Protocol.

FRG Informed of Death

LD171827 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] In the wake of the Iraqi Air Force attack on the Bushehr atomic center, which led to the martyrdom of 10 civilians including a German national, the political director general at the Foreign Ministry met with the FRG charge d'affaires in Tehran this afternoon. He provided him with information related to the above affair and to the death of a German engineer from the FRG atomic inspection company.

Condemning this inhuman act of the Iraqi regime, the political director general at our country's Foreign Ministry expressed sympathy for the killing of the German engineer. He asked the German charge d'affaires to communicate the sympathy and condolecences of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the FRG Government, as well as to the victim's survivors.

Expressing thanks for the information provided, the FRG charge d'affaires expressed his deep sorrow and sympathy over the killing of a number of civilians, including a German national.

AEOI Appeals to IAEA

LD171843 Tehran IRNA in English 1836 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov 17, IRNA—Following the Iraqi Ba'thist regime's first of its two air raids on the Bushehr nuclear plant Tuesday, an urgent protest note was cabled to the head of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Dr. Hans Blix, by Deputy Prime Minister Reza Amrollahi here today.

Amrollahi who is president of the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran (AEOI) noting the Ba'thist regime's unabashed acknowledgement of its dastardly deed in its military Communique 2917 tonight, drew the IAEA head's attention to the Iraqi envoy to Bonn's statement on Jan. 28 this year, in which he had specifically mentioned the Bushehr nuclear plant as a target for an air attack.

The first Iraqi attack at 11:45 local time (0815 GMT) besides causing damage to the plant resulted in 17 casualties, among them a West German engineer of the TUV Company who died immediately.

Amrollahi urged the IAEA to take appropriate measures, warning that the attack might have "the same transboundary radioactive release and radiological consequences as the Chernobyl nuclear accident, due to the nuclear material present at the Bushehr power plant."

"These threats and attacks against peaceful nuclear installations are a clear violation of the agency's general resolution", said Amrollahi pointing that the 2nd paragraph of the IAEA resolution explicitly says "any armed attack against nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful purposes constitutes a violation of the principles of the U.N. Charter, international laws and the statute of the agency."

Urging the IAEA head's "serious prompt action" in condemning the Iraqi air raid so as to prevent further aggression, Amrollahi termed the Bushehr attack as a "serious threat to the environment and peaceful development of nuclear energy."

He asked Blix to rush an expert team to the site in order to control the radiological consequences of the recent damages.

Amrollahi also reminded in his protest note about the four previous military attacks by the Iraqi regime on the Bushehr nuclear plant on 24 March 1984, 12 Feb 1985, 5 March 1985 and 12 July 1986.

Iraqi warplanes once again raided the same site for the second consecutive time at 16:45 today, inflicting more damage.

The deputy premier immediately responded with a second protest cable to the IAEA whose contents are as follows:

"Following my telexes regarding the Iraqi military attack on the Bushehr nuclear power plant, I would like to inform with profound regret that one more attack was just made today at 16:45 (13:15 GMT)...I expect your immediate action in preventing further violation of the very spirit of the IAEA's statute by the aggressive regime of Iraq."

WIH Announces Reprisal Attacks Against Iraq

LD171721 Tehran IRNA in English 1717 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA—The War Information Headquarters (WIH) warned Tuesday that Muslim combatants will pound military and economic centers throughout Iraq, except the four holy cities of Karbala', Al-Najaf, Samarra and Al-Kazimiyah.

The WIH statement released here tonight, said that the war mongering regime of Iraq has once again revealed its wicked intentions over the past few days by raiding Iranian residential areas in Kurdistan, Bushehr and Bakhtaran Provinces killing or wounding several citizens.

Therefore, the statement said, the Muslim combatants in order to deter the enemy from its mischievous acts will decisively carry out the reprisal measure.

The statement called on all Iraqi people to evacuate the surroundings of economic and military centers as soon as possible.

Further Combat Operations Against Iraq

Iraq Shells Marivan

LD171430 Tehran IRNA in English 1423 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA—Iraqi long-range artillery fire shelled areas near the border town of Marivan, northwestern Iran, at 10:30 hours local time (07:00 GMT) Tuesday.

Earlier on Monday, Iraqi troops had pounded the suburbs of Marivan with their long-range artillery fire.

There is yet no report on the casualty toll or the extent of damage.

Iraqi Plane Shot Down

LD171556 Tehran IRNA in English 1553 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17 IRNA—An Iraqi warplane was shot by Iranian anti-aircraft fire and crashed into the Persian Gulf at 16:30 hours local time (13:00 GMT) Tuesday, said a Joint Staff communique here today.

Communique No 3,023

LD171645 Tehran IRNA in English 1636 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA—Iranian naval forces intercepted 14 cargo ships and tankers off the southern shores of Iran, but allowed them to continue voyage since they had no Iraqi-bound cargo aboard, said a military communique here Tuesday.

Communique No. 3023 of the Joint Staff Command said that the Islamic Republic's Muslim combatants despatched several patrol groups to the battlefronts to prevent Iraqi patrol units from penetrating Iranian positions over Monday and Tuesday. An Iranian patrol group from Division 84 found and seized some light weapons in one of the operational regions.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire persisted in most of the fronts as a result of which some Iraqi soldiers were killed and wounded and parts of their positions destroyed.

In Nahr 'Anbar, Iraqi tank fire was silenced by heavy fire of the Muslim combatants, and at least six enemy tanks sustained serious damage.

An Iraqi patrol unit which attempted to infiltrate Iranian positions was forced to flee sustaining casualties.

Enemy engineering activities in Anjireh and Nahr 'Anbar were checked by Iranian artillery fire.

Movements of Iraqi motorized forces in Zobeydeh and Tib as well as in Panjwin and Helaleh were checked by Iranian combatants.

Iran's Gendarmerie forces Monday killed and wounded some Iraqi troops in the southern fronts setting afire five gun emplacements and observation posts, two munitions depots as well as two vehicles.

Iraqi warplanes violated the air space of Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, at 10:45 (07:15 GMT) Monday, but forced to flee by Iranian anti-aircraft fire, concluded the communique.

Military Leaders on Readiness, New Submarine

NC180836 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Yesterday Brigadier General Jalali and Navy Commander Rear Admiral Malekzadegan continued their inspection of Navy positions and fortifications in the sentitive and strategic region of the Persian Gulf to assess the combat readiness of naval units, and they stopped at the destroyer *Sabalan*. They also inspected naval forces stationed in the vital Strait of Hormuz.

In an interview with correspondents on the deck of the destroyer *Sabalan*, Brigadier General Jalali referred to the excellent state of readiness of the personnel and equipment of the naval units in the region and the high morale of the combatants. He said: The combatants stationed on the islands are ready to confront U.S. threats and provocations with all their strength. Regarding the state of readiness and the defense plans of the Islamic Republic for combating U.S. threats, he said: Our operational plans are ready to be implemented. The Islamic Republic has proven to the world that sophisticated armaments are no match for the faith of our Islamic combatants. Referring to the operations of our combatant forces, who welcome martyrdom, he added: The people are inspired by Islamic ideology and volunteer for martyrdom. He continued: They will give the necessary response to the enemy's attacks with their operations that invite martyrdom.

Brigadier General Jalali then spoke about the people's responsibility now that a new phase has begun in support of the war. He said: The Islamic revolution is now at a turning point and a very sensitive juncture. Hence the presence of the people at the fronts can give a devastating blow to the enemies. It is therefore imperative that all the people be present at the fronts with all their strength, or behind the front lines so that they may assist the combatants and, God willing, taste the sweetness of victory.

Continuing the interview, the defense minister stressed that the readiness of the Navy is rapidly increasing. He said: This is because our readiness is directly related to the way we respond to the enemies' actions. Because the enemies' plots have increased, our Armed Forces are ready. They are the strong arm of the nation. He continued: Most of the vessels which were not operational earlier have now been made ready with the efforts of the personnel of these forces. Referring to the Defense Ministry's excellent logistical preparations for the Armed Forces, Brigadier General Jalali said: We are trying with all our strength to meet the needs of the forces in various fields.

He added: Weapons plants are constantly striving to provide for combatants' needs, and are producing work of a high quality. Effective measures have been taken, including the manufacture of new underwater mines,

guided boats, and the first submarine, which I have personally inspected. He added: This submarine has been made with [words indistinct], and it is possible to use it in irregular warfare.

Rear Admiral Malekzadegan, the commander of the Navy, mentioned the presence of advanced foreign warships in the Persian Gulf as proof of the Islamic Republic's naval strength. He said: We assure the people that the Navy is performing its duties to the best of its ability and that our combat units on land, at sea, and in the air are at a high state of readiness. This state of readiness is unprecedented in the history of these forces and results from the efforts of their selfless personnel. While expressing his appreciation to the Ministry of Defense for its support for the Armed Forces, he asked the dedicated people of our nation to fill the fronts with manpower in response to the call by the Supreme War Support Council.

IRGC Commander, Minister Outline Arms Production
PM171655 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 8 Nov 87 p 2

[Text] Our correspondent from Mashhad tells us that Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] Commander Mohsen Reza'i has announced in Mashhad [date not specified] that since the beginning of the war we have succeeded in obtaining a series of completely secret weapons from abroad. These weapons are at the moment being rebuilt and assembled.

The IRGC commander also added that plans are under way for a tank called the Zolfaqar, using a blend of Western and Eastern technology, and that this tank will be tested soon. Mohsen Reza'i said in this regard: Part of this tank is being used because it was well made in the East. It is being assembled and combined with another Western tank made in the United States. This tank is now ready to be tested.

IRGC Minister Rafiqdust has announced in an interview with the English-language daily *Tehran Times* [date and place not specified] that we have reached the mass-production level in the production of several types of missiles and boats. We have reached 100-percent self-sufficiency in the production of magazines and ammunition for our RPG's. Foreign purchases of these items have been cut as of last year. These weapons are being made at a high level in terms of both quality and quantity.

We have also achieved self-sufficiency in 107-mm missiles and the Malyutka antitank missiles—and this includes their respective warheads. These will go into mass production next year. Because of its high quality this missile could even be exported, and it is predicted that it would have a good market.

The IRGC minister added: A factory producing Tow missiles will be opened in the next few weeks. There is no longer any need to purchase these missiles. It is expected that these will be made in quantity inside the country.

He then talked about the production of missiles in the country and said: Technical and research work has been completed on three types of surface-to-surface missiles. One of these types will be in use on the war fronts by the end of this year [21 March 1988]. At present we are copying Scud-B missiles. A factory is about to be completed. We have no problems as far as this missile is concerned. With regard to surface-to-air and surface-to-sea missiles, we are busy copying these. In the near future they will also be mass produced.

Rafiqdust then talked about the production of naval weapons inside the country and added: We do not need foreign markets when it comes to our naval industries. We have the capability to produce all types of ships and boats in any class that the war may need. The famous speedboats are all entirely made inside the country. As far as quantity goes, our boat-building yards are perhaps the largest in the world with the quantity increasing daily.

Very soon, a 200-man landing craft and an IRGC tow-boat will be launched. Also, the second type of Iranian submarine will be launched next month. This is very modern and sophisticated, having been built under the best possible conditions. We have also received orders from the IRGC naval unit for frigates, which will be launched early next year.

In another part of the interview, the IRGC minister commented on local weapons production with regard to the Air Force. He said: There is a two-engined training aircraft which we self-produce. This has actually been used, the IRGC Air Force has chosen it, and we have accepted an order for it. We are also copying a type of PC-7 aircraft. We have chosen to copy some of the other jet fighters we have. Our brothers have started on this work. We have also finished research on manufacturing helicopters.

The IRGC minister added that the magazine for RPG-7 shells has reached the mass-production level. The 122-mm shell has also been made, and exports have been confirmed for next year. He added: With regard to communications equipment, one type of PRC-7 [as transliterated] radio has been made inside the country which is lighter than the original and has twice as many channels.

Another report from our correspondent in Mashhad indicates that IRGC Commander Mohsen Reza'i is in Mashhad to take part in a meeting of Khorasan Province military commanders. He has warned that the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf should be considered serious even if they do not attack us, because the Americans have shown that they have taken sides in the

hostilities. The IRGC commander added: The operations against the Americans have been planned with strength and in a calm manner; as long as they maintain a presence in the Persian Gulf, operations against them will continue. He stated: With its presence in the Persian Gulf, the United States has caused problems for countries such as Kuwait, which is in a quagmire. We are now seeking a greater victory than the fall of Saddam; that is, the eviction of the United States and the fall of Kuwait. He added: We shall certainly evict the United States and secure the fall of Kuwait at the same time as Saddam's fall.

With regard to the Iranian people's Readiness Week, he said: Celebrating this week following the events in the Persian Gulf has important political repercussions. He said that the general mobilization that will take place later will have positive results in sending troops to the fronts, raising the resistance potential against U.S. plots, and finding a degree of invulnerability.

Our correspondent reports from Behshahr on the IRGC commander's speech in a Behshahr mosque. The IRGC commander noted King Fahd's refusal to participate as a result of a missile hitting Kuwaiti oil facilities. He added that the region will soon witness the eviction of the United States from the Persian Gulf and the fall of Kuwait.

Velayati Urges Advancement in Science

LD141644 Tehran IRNA in English 0730 GMT 14 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov 14, IRNA—The first international seminar on urology ended its work here Friday and in a resolution condemned Iraqi Ba'thist regime's deployment of chemical weapons in the Iraqi-imposed war.

The resolution called on international forums to adopt practical and effective actions to put an end to the use of chemical weapons by Iraqi regime.

Participants focused on prevention of urological diseases in children and adults and recommended water as the most potent liquid for prevention of kidney stones.

Smoking, the resolution said, which has a close relationship with cancer of bladder should be avoided as a preventive measure.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Dr Velayati in a speech in the seminar's last session emphasized advancement of the science in the Islamic Republic and said that doctors and scientists shoulder a heavy responsibility in the future Iran.

Dr Velayati regretted that a group of Iranian specialists have left their country for better material comfort. He said despite alluring prospects in the West, many doctors have chosen to stay in Iran in order to serve fellow-citizens.

Velayati also said that the Iranian nation has proved its capability and that the big powers are now unable to make Iranians quit their principles. He expressed confidence that Iranians will be successful in medical fields as they have been in the political arena.

Velayati Leaves on Visit to India 17 Nov

LD171004 Tehran IRNA in English 0818 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati heading a delegation left Tehran for New Delhi Tuesday morning for a two-day visit and talks with Indian officials.

Speaking to IRNA prior to departure, Velayati said that he will exchange views with Indian officials on expansion of bilateral ties, issues of the Third World and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Velayati further told IRNA that Iran's relations with India which is a major Third World country and a member of the Non-Aligned Movement is of great importance. The Iranian officials, he stressed, attach great importance to expansion of Iran-India ties.

On visit to Iran of the speaker of the lower house of Indian Parliament Balram Jakhar late last month, Velayati said that the Indian official exchanged views with Iranian officials on issues of mutual interest.

Transport Cooperation With USSR Discussed

NC181031 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] The Soviet deputy minister of railways and chief of railway traffic, Valeriy Butko, who is in Tehran at the head of a delegation participating in the 14th session of the subcommittee for transport, has met with Mr Iravani, minister for economic affairs and finance and chief of the permanent commission for economic cooperation between Iran and the Soviet Union, at the ministry premises. During this meeting Mr Butko presented a detailed report on the progress of the commission in the field of transport and expressed the hope that increased cooperation in various departments would develop between the two countries.

Mr Iravani then said that he hoped the session of the subcommittee for expanding transport between the two countries would conclude successfully. He referred to the close proximity of the two countries and their extensive economic collaboration. He said: There is currently a consensus between our countries on political and other issues. Since the convocation of the 10th session of the permanent commission there has been remarkable progress in various fields. Mr Iravani said: During the 14th session, we reached a final consensus on establishing a joint shipping company between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet Union. We also agreed to reactivate transport routes on the Sarakhs Highway via

Soviet territory as well as to cooperation in all rail routes between Sarakhs and Mashhad and (?Bafq). These are some of the important achievements already attained. We have very promising prospects for broadening other ties in the field of transport, he added. The 14th session of the transport subcommittee is still going on in Tehran.

Commentary Warns Against Arab Capitulation

NC172110 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Station political commentary]

[Text] The Arab region and regimes have never been in worse shape. The same Arab countries that used to fight off invading fleets are now coaxing these fleets to come and impose their imperial dominion. The same countries that used to struggle against the presence of foreign military bases on their territories are now calling on the imperial countries to establish bases and deploy forces on their soil. The same countries that used to make a point of declaring their hostility to the Zionist entity and to hasten to sever ties with any country that established ties with this entity are now racing to restore relations with suspect countries. The same countries that used to formulate statements denouncing the Zionist enemy are now seeking statements and resolutions which reek of capitulation and servility.

This is how the official Arab world looks now that reactionaries have taken control of such institutions as the Arab League. Arab reactionary forces have monopolized Arab decisionmaking through the effective use of petrodollars. This development is bound to influence the course of events in the Arab world not only in the present but also in the future.

Reaction's firm grip on Arab decisionmaking, which was particularly evident during the Amman summit, could only initiate a process of capitulation and meekness in the area. This would lead not only to the loss of Palestinian land but also to incalculable dangers for the Arab world.

Westerners and Americans are establishing bases and moving their planes from one Islamic country to strike against another. This is what happened in [word indistinct], when U.S. planes took off from U.S. bases in Cairo and flew across Gulf countries to stage attacks on the nascent Muslim state of Iran. This also happened when U.S. planes took off from U.S. bases in Britain and Tunisia to strike at Libya.

Such a state of affairs places the Arab world under foreign occupation. The capitulation of Arab rulers today is reminiscent of the submission of their predecessors during World War I. That submission brought British, French, and Italian occupation to the region. Today's Arab rulers are no better than their ealrier counterparts, and their actions will yield nothing less harsh than the outcome of World War I.

The consequences of the reactionaries' hegemony in the Arab world are predictable. They are leading the area into increasing capitulation and, therefore, will give the arrogant a chance to settle accounts with any hostile forces. An example of such confrontation has already taken place in the Persian Gulf. Such a twist of events can only promise greater perils for the Arab nation. [passage indistinct]

Editorial Discusses Arab Summit Outcome

PM171659 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 11 Nov 87 p 2

[Editorial by Yunes Shokrkhah: "The Arab Summit: Defeat After Defeat"]

[Text] The Arab summit was held with the aim of controlling Iran through the channel of right-wing Arab regimes cutting off diplomatic relations with Iran and, in a word, isolating Iran. It is now finishing its last round of meetings with the delegates' main focus on healing internal Arab wounds.

After efforts to achieve a unified stance against the Islamic Republic of Iran were defeated at the Arab summit, two other main topics took the lead in discussions: bringing Egypt back into the Arab fold, and bringing Damascus and Baghdad closer together. The 1987 Arab summit did not pay too much attention to ways of confronting Israel.

With regard to the first point, all the Arab countries on the southern borders of the Persian Gulf insisted that Egypt be brought back to the Arab fold. This country was expelled from the Arab League after it signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979. After their futile efforts at the summit, these countries threatened that they would restore relations with Egypt without the League's consent.

In this regard, the main opposition came from Syria. Syria knows well that Egypt is its main rival for leadership of the Arab world, so it opposed this plan more than anyone else. Another reason for Syria's opposition could be analyzed as follows: Syria is cleverly raising its opposition to Egypt while at the same time exacerbating its terms for a peace with Iraq. However, if we look at the logic of the Persian Gulf states, their main reason for bringing Egypt back to the Arab world is to create a wide military-financial front for Iraq, because it is these countries that are losing the most from Iraq's defeat in the fight with Iran.

The second axis of the conference, which was to bring Syria and Iraq closer together politically, was realized in the sense that it provided an opportunity for Saddam and Hafiz al-Asad to meet. The king of Jordan was the main instigator of this meeting. According to Western news agencies the meeting between Saddam and Al-Asad focused on reaching a common view on Iran and also efforts for better relations between the two countries.

Through his efforts, the king of Jordan is trying to bring Iraq and Syria closer together and at the same time remove his differences with 'Arafat, which have lasted 21 months, giving Jordan a chance to drag the Palestinian resistance into a quagmire of compromise and at the same time move Syria closer to 'Arafat's camp. This is why the king of Jordan met three times with the PLO leader. The Jordanian king's aim is to complete the efforts of the GCC. King Husayn thinks that Egypt can enter the Arab world as backdrop support for Iraq, while Syria abandons Iran.

Although the Western news agencies are claiming that there has been some ice-breaking between Iraqi and Syrian leaders, they themselves admit that this closeness will lead nowhere. At the same time it must be said that compromise cannot be created between Iraq and Syria through political means. The first peace that was reached between those two countries came about in 1979 and lasted only 4 months. It ended with the bloody purge in the Iraqi Ba'th Party that eliminated all of Syria's supporters.

The most hope that one can have for these types of efforts is that this type of compromise has short-term economic advantages. Syria's receiving aid from the Arab countries is the biggest of these advantages. The other side to the question is the possible opening of Iraq's oil pipeline to the Mediterranean through Syria. Perhaps Syria has half an eye open toward the financial advantages of this venture.

As far as Iraq is concerned, getting close to Syria has other objectives. While it had the upper hand in the war with Iran, Iraq insisted on harsh exchanges with Syria, but now that it is breathing its last breaths in a bout of military-political problems, Iraq has suddenly remembered Syria.

In any case, the truth of the matter is that one must never take the meeting between Iraqi and Syrian leaders seriously. For Syria, at least, there are other things to consider. Syria knows well that if it uses its special relations with Iran as a leverage point with the right-wing Arabs it will reach a more strategic goal, the most important element of which is keeping the leadership of the Arab world. The final word is that Damascus knows that the only way it can get close to Iraq is for Iran to agree to compromises. This is something that will never happen. Iran's position in relation to Iraq is quite clear. Iran has announced many times that it holds Iraq responsible as the main instigator of U.S. plots in the region and is therefore determined to destroy this unwanted element.

Statistics Chief Reports on 1986 Census

LD171948 Tehran IRNA in English 1801 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA—Iran's population is around 52 million presently, showing an annual growth rate of 3.5 to 3.7 percent, a remarkably high percentage compared with other countries, announced head of Iran's statistics center Majid Jamshidi here today.

He said in an interview that detailed results of the public census conducted in 1986 will be published later, but the figures available indicate that the number of men is slightly more than women. The census put the number of men at 25,491,645 and the number of women at 24,365,739, he said.

Iran has a young society in which 45.5 percent of people are below 14 years, 51 percent between 15 to 65 years and only 3 percent over 65 years of age, said Jamshidi. He noted that 99.4 percent of the population is Muslim. The rate of the Muslim population is 99 percent in the urban areas and 99.8 percent in rural areas, he said.

The population exceeded 51,700,000 in October 1987, since the total birth ratio is 31.8 to one thousand. The birth ratio is 30.5 to thousand [as received] in the cities and 33.4 to thousand in the villages, Jamshidi added. Some 61.6 percent of the over 6-year-old Iranians, i.e., 24 million, are literate.

Jamshidi elsewhere said that the total active manpower of the country including employees and those seeking employment are 13,041,000, which comprises 39.3 percent of the over 10-year-olds.

He also said the total number of Iranian families are 9,759,275 of whom 77 percent own houses while 12.2 percent live as tenants.

On the amenities enjoyed by families in Iran, he disclosed that 8,111,550 families use electricity, 1,057,434 have telephones, 7,175,700 are using piped water and 536,000 are enjoying piped gas around the country.

Uranium Deposits Found in Yazd Province

LD170145 Tehran IRNA in English 1659 GMT 16 Nov 87

An estimated 5,000 tons of uranium deposits have so far been located around the country by experts of Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation, announced the official of the organisation here Sunday. The official said since exploration work at uranium mines in Yazd Province has been completed the first uranium processing plant in the country will be established in this province. Rich and economical resources have been discovered in the province, he added. Uranium mines in the mineral rich Yazd Province are unique in the Middle East, in terms of variety and also economic point of view, said the official.

Pakistan

1 Killed, 19 Injured by Bomb Near Peshawar

BK181016 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] A bomb exploded in a bus on the Nasirbagh Road near Peshawar this morning, killing 1 person and injuring 19 others. Seventeen of the wounded people have been admitted to the Khyber Hospital in Peshawar.

DPRK Information Delegation Arrives for Visit

BK170524 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 16 Nov 87

[Text] A three-member delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, led by the deputy chairman of the Information Committee, Mr (Chun Won-kun), arrived in Islamabad today on a 6-day visit to Pakistan. It will discuss increased cooperation in the field of information between the two countries.

Meets With Zain Noorani

BK170526 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Nov 87

[Text] (Chon Won-kun), leader of a three-member DPRK delegation now visiting the country, has expressed his appreciation for Pakistan's progress in the economic field, as well as other areas. He made this comment during his brief talk with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani at the airport on his arrival in Islamabad yesterday. The minister of state for foreign affairs also expressed similar sentiments. He affirmed that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with the DPRK and wants to promote them further.

Dinner Remarks Noted

BK180500 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] Qazi Abdul Majid Abid, the federal minister for information and broadcasting, has affirmed that Pakistan and the DPRK maintain friendly relations of cooperation that have deepened over the past few years. He made these remarks while speaking at a dinner which he hosted in honor of the deputy chairman of the DPRK Information Committee in Islamabad last night. The visit of (Chon Won-kun) has marked a new phase in bilateral relations with the promotion of cooperation in the field of information. He said that the Pakistani people view with respect the great progress made by the DPRK thanks to the firm determination of the people and the farsightedness of the dynamic leadership of that country. The people of Pakistan are also striving hard under the guidance of an elected leadership to eliminate poverty, illiteracy, backwardness, and unemployment.

The DPRK Information Committee deputy chairman expressed similar sentiments. He said that the North Korean people greatly value their friendship with Pakistan and appreciate the successes achieved by that country. Pakistan-DPRK cooperation, especially in the field of information and broadcasting, will increase further, the DPRK delegation leader added.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Calls Off Release of Indian Soldiers

BK181125 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Nov 87

[Text] The LTTE yesterday again called off the release of 18 Indian soldiers as the Indian Government rejected its demand for free access to the entire northern peninsula.

A spokesman for the External Affairs Ministry said that the LTTE demanded freedom to move around from Point Pedro to Chittumalai to Chavakachachery and wanted the Indian peacekeeping force to halt all activities there. He said that this was unacceptable, adding that the LTTE did not guarantee the simultaneous release of all soldiers who have been held prisoners since 13 October. The LTTE wants to use their release for propaganda and tactical purposes. It is squarely the responsibility of the LTTE to ensure the safety of the captive soldiers.

The spokesman further said that India would not give a (?free run) to the LTTE rebels in Jaffna and freeze all movements of Indian soldiers for an unspecified time.

3 LTTE 'Terrorists' Killed in Jaffna

BK181011 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1000 GMT 18 Nov 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 18 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Three LTTE terrorists were killed and three others wounded at Neeramalai in the Jaffna Peninsula yesterday in an ancounter with the Indian peace keeping force (IPKF), official sources told *Lanka Puwath*. The Indian troops also made a successful raid on an ammunition dump at Sudumali and captured a large number of weapons and ammunition including mortars.

Five LTTE terrorists were captured by the IPKF near the Sivan Kovil near Navatkuli along with two AK-47 rifles and a number of grenades yesterday.

In another report reaching *Lanka Puwath*, a boat carrying armed LTTE cadres for an attack on a Jaffna area was captured by an Indian naval patrol off the island of Manditivu, which had been a target of the terrorists because of its strategic importance. The Indian Navy said that a number of packages were thrown into the sea by the terrorists.

LTTE terrorists had attempted to shoot up two Sinhalese villages at Kallar in the Trincomalee District yesterday with rocket propelled grenades but the attack had been repulsed by the IPKF and police.

Finance Minister Details 1988 Budget

BK171355 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1334 GMT 17 Nov 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 17 (*Lanka Puwath*)—An unprecedented salary increase for public servants, reduction in the turnover taxes on a number of popular consumer commodities, income tax cuts and increased excise duty were some of the main features of the eleventh consecutive budget for 1988, presented today in Parliament by Sri Lanka's Minister of Finance and Planning Ronnie de Mel.

Budget at a glance:

—Salary increase for public servants. Recommendations of administrative reforms committee to be implemented in two stages.

—Additional allocation of rupees 180 million for food stamps.

—Provision of rupees 100 million to continue biscuit feeding pg

Income Tax

—Maximum rate of personal income tax reduced from 50 percent to 40 percent.

—Ceiling on total of income tax and wealth tax is reduced from 60 percent to 50 percent of a person's income.

—The present limit of rupees 150,000 on the aggregate of qualifying payments for a year of assessment reduced to rupees 50,000.

—Following restrictions are placed on concessions for housing from 1-4-89.

1. Exemption on rental income restricted to houses below 2,000 sq. ft. in floor area.

2. Qualifying payment relief on construction of houses limited to one house and available only if the cost of construction is less than rupees 1 million.

3. The limit of rupees 1 million also applies to the purchase of a house for qualifying payment relief.

4. For undertakings engaged in construction and sale of houses, the differential tax exemption based on floor area specifications replaced with a uniform exemption of 75 percent of profits and available only in respect of houses which are 2,000 sq. ft. or less in floor area.

Company Taxation

1. Double taxation of company profits relieved by the grant of a 50 percent imputation credit on dividends.

2. Dividends distributed by a tax-free company exempted in the hands of individual shareholders, irrespective of the number of intermediary companies they have passed through.

—Withdrawal of investment relief in proportion to the withdrawal of investment in an approved project.

—Local suppliers to GCEC [Greater Columbo Economic Commission] enterprises exempted if such supplies are paid for with funds from foreign currency banking units.

—In computing capital gains on disposal of any property acquired by gift or inheritance, the base value would be the value at date of acquisition by the person who gifted it or from whom it was inherited, or 1-4-77 whichever is later, and the period of ownership of the seller would be deemed to extend from such date up to date of disposal.

—In allowing depreciation on a replaced asset, only the profit on sale of the old asset would be deducted from the purchase price of the new asset.

Provident Funds

The investment income component of provident fund money would be tax-free in the hands of a beneficiary when terminal benefits are received. Monies received from the employees trust fund are to be accorded the same concessionary treatment as in the case of other approved provident funds.

—Residence rules are to be revised to enable a non-resident person to visit Sri Lanka under certain circumstances without losing his non-resident status.

—A 5-year time-bar would operate if returns are furnished after the stipulated date (30th November) but prior to 31st March of the following year. Turnover Tax Changes

—Turnover tax rate reduced from 3 percent to 1 percent on the following commodities:

Animal and poultry food, ayurvedic preparations, charcoal, pharmaceuticals, rice and rice flour, soya milk powder and fertilizer.

—Turnover tax rate on passenger transport service reduced from 3 percent to 1 percent.

—Turnover tax rate on share transactions of investment companies and unit trusts reduced from 5 percent to 1 percent.

—Turnover tax rate on beedi [cigarette substitute] manufacturers is reduced from 10 percent to 3 percent with a consequential increase in import duty on beedi leaves.

—Turnover tax rate on buying and selling of furniture and timber in log form increased from 1 percent to 5 percent.

—Suppliers of goods to exporters exempted from turnover tax subject to certain conditions.

—Turnover tax rate on unspecified cosmetic items increased from 10 percent to 20 percent.

Turnover tax rate on low cost roofing material reduced from 10 percent to 5 percent.

Customs Duty Changes

—Export duty on tea reduced by rupees 1.50 per kilogram.

—Export duty on non-traditional agricultural products and marine products abolished.

—Export licensing of a number of non-traditional exports abolished.

—Import duty rate on items above 60 percent reduced to 60 percent.

—Import duty on textiles reduced from 100 percent to 60 percent. With a minimum duty of rupees 30 per sq. metre for synthetic textiles and rupees 15 per sq. metre for cotton textiles.

—Import duty on all imports which were allowed dutyfree up to now will be liable to a minimum duty rate of 5 percent—except fertilizer, dry fish, books and a few other items.

—Import duty on wheat grain increased from 10 percent to 20 percent. No increase in price of bread.

—Increased import duties on cigarettes and liquor.

Excise Duty Increases

—(I) Rupees 8.90 per proof litre on coconut arrack, molasses arrack and locally produced foreign-type spirits. Increase in retail price rupees 5.

—(II) Rupees 2.90 per litre on beer. Increase in retail price rupees 2.25.

—(III) Rupees 100 per kilogram on tobacco, increase in retail price of cigarettes 10 cents.

—(IV) Excise duty reduced to industrial use.

Other Changes

—Increase in rates charged for international telephone, telegraph and telex messages.

—Fees and charges of government departments to be increased by a minimum of 10 percent.

—Minimum charge of rupees 50 for services rendered to the public by the commissioner of motor traffic.

—First registration fee on motorcycles increased from rupees 100 to rupees 200 and for motor cars from rupees 500 to rupees 1,250.

—Licence fee for dealers in motor vehicles increased from rupees 250 to rupees 10,000.

—Issue of non-user notices discontinued.

—Licence fee of rupees 1 million per year on casinos.

—Licence fee of rupees 100,000 per year on bookmakers.

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